



POLICY STATEMENT 72 IMMUNIZATION POLICY

POLICY DIGEST

Monitoring Unit: Student Health Center
Initially Issued: January 1, 1993
Last Revised: April 1, 2016

I. PURPOSE

To establish an immunization policy and related procedures for all students and to define adequate immunization, exemptions and proof required for same.

II. DEFINITIONS

A. ADEQUATE IMMUNIZATION FOR THE VARIOUS DISEASES IS DEFINED AS:

Rubeola (Measles) -- Proof from a health care provider of administration of two doses of measles vaccine (or combination vaccines containing measles vaccine) given at least one month apart, in 1968 or later, and after one year of age, or documentation of immunity or past disease by a statement from a physician or a serologic test.

Mumps -- Proof from a health care provider of administration of mumps vaccine, documentation of immunity by serologic test or documentation of past disease by a physician or other health care provider.

Rubella (German Measles) -- Proof from a health care provider of administration of rubella vaccine or documentation of immunity by serologic test or documentation of past disease by a physician or other health care provider.

Tetanus -- Proof from a health care provider of administration of tetanus immunization within the last ten years.

Diphtheria -- Proof from a health care provider of administration of diphtheria immunization within the last ten years.

Meningococcal -- Proof from a health care provider of administration of Menactra vaccine at any time or Menomune vaccine within the past year.

Tuberculosis Screening - - Proof from a health care provider of tuberculin skin testing within one year prior to college entrance of high-risk students, as defined by the American College Health Association guidelines (www.acha.org/info_resources/tb_statement.pdf).

B. PROOF OF IMMUNIZATION IS DEFINED AS:

A written statement from a physician, public health clinic, or other health care provider stating the dates of immunization or occurrence of disease, or date and result of antibody titers.

III. GENERAL POLICY

Effective for the Fall semester 2006 and thereafter, no student shall enroll for the first time at Louisiana State University without documented proof of adequate immunization for or immunity to measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus and diphtheria, and meningococcal meningitis. In addition, some students may be required to have skin testing for tuberculosis (see below*). Undergraduate students returning to LSU after an absence of a semester or more shall be considered to be enrolling for the first time for purposes of this policy. Graduate students returning to LSU after an absence of three semesters or more shall be considered to be enrolling for the first time for purposes of this policy. This policy excludes students matriculating only in off-campus or continuing education/extension courses and degree only candidates. Exemptions from immunization requirements are permitted for medical, religious, or other personal reasons.

*Tuberculin skin testing is required for all students who may be at risk for TB infection or disease, as defined by the American College Health Association guidelines. Categories of high risk students are listed on the LSU immunization form, and include students who have lived or traveled to certain countries/areas of the world (see Proof of Immunization Compliance form), students who have been in close contact with someone with TB, students with a history of alcoholism or IV drug use, students taking immunosuppressive medications, and those who have resided, worked, or volunteered in a prison, homeless shelter, hospital, nursing home, or other long-term treatment facility.

Students born before January 1, 1957 are exempt from the requirement for proof of immunization for or immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella. All students to whom this law applies are required to submit proof of immunizations, immunity or exemption to the Student Health Center after being admitted into the University. Failure to comply with Louisiana Law R.S. 17:170; Schools of Higher Learning will cause a student to be ineligible to pay university fees and attend classes until the student complies. Classes may be purged if a student is not in compliance by established deadlines as promulgated by the Office of the University Registrar.

Requests for exemption because of medical reasons must be signed by a physician or other health care provider. Requests for waivers for exemption because of religious or other personal reasons may be signed by the student (or by a parent or legal guardian if the student is not yet 18 years of age).

Students who elect exemption from the immunization requirements for medical, religious, or other personal reasons, and students who have not provided proof of adequate immunization or immunity for any other reason may, at the discretion of the President, be required to leave the campus in the event of an outbreak of measles, mumps or rubella and may be required to remain away from campus until the appropriate incubation period of the disease has expired. An outbreak is defined as one case of measles and numbers of cases of mumps and rubella, as defined by the Louisiana State Health Officer. Students not immunized may avoid exclusion from the campus by obtaining immunization and furnishing proof thereof.

The President shall have the authority to change the definition of adequate immunization to conform to current state law and to current public health recommendations.