

Dear Medical Student,

Welcome to the University of Chicago! The State of Illinois and the University require all students to provide proof of immunizations. To avoid class registration holds in subsequent quarters, please meet this requirement by August 1.

In order to complete this requirement, you must follow the below steps.

## **IMMUNIZATION RECORD INSTRUCTIONS**

### **STEP 1: COLLECT RECORDS**

**Gather acceptable forms of documentation.** This includes healthcare provider records, school immunization records, clinic/hospital records, International Certificate of Vaccinations or other official documentation of your vaccination history. Please make sure that the record is in English; translations of non-English documents must be certified.

Please view the [Immunization Form for Medical Students](#) for the list of immunization requirements and review the following pages for further information and frequently asked questions.

### **AND/OR**

**Ask your healthcare provider** to complete the [Immunization Form for Medical Students](#) (and you complete the top section).

If you have not received these immunizations, please make every effort to obtain them before arriving on campus. If you are unable to receive them prior to arriving on campus, please call UChicago Student Wellness at 773-834-WELL to schedule an appointment.

### **STEP 2: SUBMIT RECORDS**

Next week, please look out for an email from UChicago Student Wellness with a link to the Wellness Portal, where you will upload your documentation. Your CNET ID and password will be needed to access it.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

UChicago Student Wellness

**ENTERING MEDICAL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE:**

- Proof of immunity through blood titer to Measles (Rubeola), Mumps, Rubella (German Measles)
- Current Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis vaccine.
- Proof of immunity through blood titer to Hepatitis B.
- Proof of immunity through blood titer or vaccination to Varicella.
- Proof of Meningitis vaccine if under 22 years of age
- Tuberculosis screening.

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- A LICENSED HEALTHCARE PROVIDER must complete the immunization form. A healthcare provider is: a physician licensed to practice (M.D. or D.O.), a Licensed Nurse, or a Public Health Official.
- ENGLISH: All immunization forms and copies of laboratory reports must be submitted in English. Translations of non-English documents must be certified. It is acceptable to have an English translation of the documents certified as accurate by a member of the University community who is fluent in the document's original language.
- EXEMPTIONS: The following exemptions may be allowed. Anyone with a vaccine exemption may be excluded from the University/College in the event of a Measles, Mumps, Rubella or Diphtheria outbreak in accordance with public health law.
  - MEDICAL CONTRAINDICATIONS: a written, signed, and dated statement from a physician stating the vaccine that is contraindicated, the nature, and duration of the medical condition that contraindicates the vaccine(s). This statement will not be accepted if it does not meet the standards of care at The University of Chicago Hospitals. Submit this document on the Wellness Portal.
  - PREGNANCY OR SUSPECTED PREGNANCY: a signed statement from a physician stating the student is pregnant or pregnancy is suspected. Pregnancy exemptions are applicable only to Measles, Mumps, and Rubella requirements. Submit this statement on the Wellness Portal.
  - AGE EXEMPTION: Persons born before January 1, 1957 are considered immune to Measles, Mumps, and Rubella. Requirements may be met by submitting a copy of the student's birth certificate, driver's license, or passport identifying the birth date.
  - RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION: Please upload a completed and signed Illinois Certificate of Religious Exemption form, which can be found on the Wellness Portal.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q:** Can I just submit copies of my vaccines instead of completing the Immunization Record?

**A:** The Immunization Record is a required document. Please make certain that you submit the form specifically for Medical Students. This form must be completed and signed by a licensed healthcare provider.

**Q:** Why isn't my immunization history sufficient for proof of immunity?

**A:** The University of Chicago adheres to the guidelines of the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) and, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention for healthcare workers and the requirements of the State of Illinois. Proof of immunity must be verified via blood titers for Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella and Hepatitis B. Immunity for Tetanus and Pertussis are verifiable by a three doses of Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine.

**Q:** If I need blood titers, why should I submit my immunization history?

**A:** Immunization dates are important in the event that your blood titers are negative. Each required titer has a specific number of doses needed to complete a series. For example, Illinois requires the following: either two doses of MMR. It is also important to note that the first dose of MMR is not given before 12 months of age (your first birthday). If a titer is negative for any of the required immunizations, specific guidelines are available for attempting to boost one's immunity. In most cases, an additional dose of the vaccine will be administered and the titer rechecked after 30 days, if it is not medically contraindicated.

**Q:** What if I had the Varicella infection (chickenpox) as a child?

**A:** In most cases, your titer will prove immunity if you had the infection in the past. Otherwise you will be required to complete a two-dose series for Varicella.

**Q:** I started the Hepatitis B series but never completed it. Do I need to start the series over?

**A:** Generally, we don't restart the series. The most common approach would be to give the missing dose, wait 30 days, then have a Hepatitis B Surface Antibody rechecked.

**Q:** I had a PPD (TB skin test) last year. Do I need another one?

**A:** Tuberculosis testing must be performed within three months of orientation date. This is a two-step process. The second PPD will be placed during orientation.

**Q:** What if I have had a positive PPD in the past?

**A:** If you have had a positive reaction, your healthcare provider must provide documentation of the reaction size, followed by a Chest X-ray or QuantiFERON Gold/T-spot testing. Any reaction greater than 10mm requires additional testing for healthcare workers. Please attach a copy of the Chest X-ray or QuantiFERON Gold/T-

spot testing results to your health form. Also note that receiving the BCG vaccine does not always present a positive reaction. Therefore, a Chest X-ray or QuantiFERON Gold/T-spot testing is necessary for a positive PPD reaction.

**Q:** Why does the University of Chicago require so much proof of immunization?

**A:** All medical colleges require the same. It is our intent to maintain healthcare and provide knowledge of communicable diseases within the profession you have chosen.