

## 5.75 – First Time Student Vaccination and Health Requirements v010920

### PART 1: PURPOSE

The purpose of this rule, recommended by the university's Communicable Disease Preparedness Committee, is to mitigate the risk to members of the university community of contracting, and the risk of the spread of, vaccine-preventable illnesses at the NMSU campuses. The rule establishes vaccination requirements for first time students, effective for the Fall 2020 semester.

### PART 2: REQUIRED VACCINATION OR TREATMENT

- A. **First Time Domestic Students:** First time incoming domestic students at any campus are required to provide proof of vaccine for, or immunity from, the diseases of Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR).
- B. **First Time International Students:** In addition to the MMR, first time incoming international students must be screened for tuberculosis (TB). If TB testing is positive, the student will be referred initially to the Aggie Health & Wellness Center for further medical evaluation and treatment.
- C. **Exemption for On Line Only Students:** Students in exclusively online educational programs or courses, who will not be physically present at NMSU, may request an exemption from this rule.
- D. **MMR Vaccination Options:** All students born after January 1, 1957 are required to meet one of the following MMR immunization options before class registration:
  - 1. Option 1 - Provide proof of two measles vaccinations (one of which must be dated after 1979), first dose given at age 12 months or later. Second dose given at least 28 days after the first.
  - 2. Option 2 - Provide a copy of lab test results showing positive immunity to Rubella (Measles) IgG or MMR IgG.
  - 3. Option 3- If the student is granted a religious, medical contra-indication or other exemption, the student must sign the Aggie Health & Wellness Center's Immunization Exemption form (*See Appendix ARP 5.75-A*). The student's signature indicates that they understand the potential health risks posed by non-vaccination, and further that in the event of an emergent disease outbreak, the student may be required to be isolated or to leave campus and to not attend class/lab, extra-curricular activities or university events until the disease outbreak resolves. (*See Part 4 below*).
- E. **Access to MMR Vaccine:** The MMR vaccine is readily available to incoming students through insurance plans, local health departments, and private medical providers prior to coming to campus. To facilitate class enrollment, the Aggie Health & Wellness Center will continue to work with the New Mexico Department of Health and others to provide free on-campus vaccinations for students prior to the first day of classes.

### **PART 3: RECOMMENDED VACCINATIONS**

In addition to the above MMR requirement, the Aggie Health & Wellness Center strongly recommends the following additional vaccinations for these other vaccine-preventable illnesses:

- A. **Meningococcal Meningitis ACWY (one dose after age 16) and B (2 doses before age 24):** Meningitis is a potentially fatal or devastating illness and the risk is higher for college students living in residence halls than for 18–23 year old persons not in college.
- B. **Human Papilloma Virus (3 dose series):** The human papilloma virus (HPV) can cause cervical cancer in females, anal cancer in females and males, throat cancer in females and males and penile cancer in males.
- C. **Influenza (Yearly):** Influenza or flu is a contagious respiratory illness. It can cause mild to severe illness, and can also result in serious outcomes such as hospitalization or death.
- D. **Pertussis or whooping cough (Tetanus Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap, Adacel or Boostrix) Update every 10 years):** Whooping cough is a contagious respiratory disease that can cause prolonged symptoms.

### **PART 4: PROCEDURES**

#### **A. Student Pre-Registration Responsibilities:**

1. Students must submit immunization records before they will be permitted to register for classes. A university health center hold will be placed on the student account until immunization information is received and verified.
2. Immunization records are to be loaded with other required documents through the secure Admissions portal at <https://admissions.nmsu.edu/> or by fax/email to the Aggie Health & Wellness Center at 575-646-6428 or [campus\\_health@nmsu.edu](mailto:campus_health@nmsu.edu). NMSU will maintain confidentiality of all medical documentation.

#### **B. Aggie Health & Wellness Center Responsibilities:**

1. The Aggie Health & Wellness Center oversees immunization compliance.
2. Aggie Health & Wellness Center nursing staff will review documentation received from students, load pertinent information into BANNER and apply a registration hold as needed.
3. The NMSU Aggie Health & Wellness Center, 3080 Breland St., Las Cruces, NM 88003, 575-646-1512 Ext. Immunization Nurse is available to provide more information and assistance regarding compliance with the vaccine requirements of this rule.

**C. Administrative Response in Event of Emergent Disease Outbreak:** During a public health emergency or epidemic of disease declared by federal, state, or local health authorities, all non-vaccinated/immune, including those granted an exemption may be required to leave campus and not to attend university classes/lab, extra-curricular activities and university events until the emergent situation is resolved. These determinations will be made by the campus president, in consultation with the co-chairs of the university Communicable Disease Preparedness Committee and with New Mexico Department of Health officials.

1. The Dean of Students will issue protocols relating to attendance of class/lab, extra-curricular activities and other university events by to non-vaccinated/immune students.
2. Housing and Residential Life will issue protocols for temporary isolation or coordination of departure from campus housing for non-vaccinated/immune students, as well as for other residents, as may be necessary.



Aggie Health & Wellness Center  
Immunization Exemption Form

Name of Student (please print)

Date of Birth

Aggie ID#

Address

City

State

Zip

Indicate first semester to attend

Fall

Spring

Summer

20\_\_\_\_

Type of Exemption Requested:

Medical Contraindication

Religious Objection

Personal/Philosophical Objection

Please check which immunizations this exemption applies to:

MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella)

Meningitis (recommended for students living in residence halls)

On behalf of the above-named student (the "Student"), I, the undersigned:

- request for the Student an exemption to the immunization requirements for New Mexico State University;
- understand that by submitting this Exemption Request, I do so at the Student's own risk;
- release NMSU, its faculty, staff and students from any and all claims connected with an outbreak or threatened outbreak of disease or other public health emergency on campus; and
- understand that, as may be determined by the appropriate campus officials, and for the health and protections of myself and others, the Student may be required to be isolated or to leave campus and be excluded from university classes/labs, extra-curricular activities and university events until the situation is resolved.

Printed Name of Student (or parent if student is a minor)

Signature of Student (or parent if student is a minor)

Date