

First Time Student Immunization Document Requirement

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 immunization documentation for first time students, effective for the Fall 2021 semester.

PART 2: REQUIRED VACCINATION DOCUMENTATION

- A. **First Time Domestic Students:** First time incoming domestic students at any campus are required to provide immunization documentation (vaccination history) during the admissions process.
- B. **First Time International Students:** In addition to immunization documentation (vaccination history), first time incoming international students must be screened for tuberculosis (TB). If TB testing is positive, the student will be referred to the Aggie Health & Wellness Center for further medical evaluation and/or 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 submit an Immunization Documentation Waiver and submit as an exemption.
- D. **No Document Available:** Students who do not have an immunization document for Admissions review should sign the Immunization Documentation Waiver and submit as requested.
- E. **Documentation Objection:** Students who object to providing immunization documentation should sign the Immunization Documentation Waiver and submit as requested.

PART 3: RECOMMENDED VACCINATIONS

In addition to the above immunization documentation requirement, the Centers for Disease Control, American College Health Association, and the NMSU Aggie Health & Wellness Center strongly recommends the following additional vaccinations for these vaccine-preventable illnesses:

- A. **Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)-** 1 or 2 doses depending on indication (if born in 1957 or later).
- B. **COVID-19-** Currently, three vaccines under emergency use authorized (EAU) and recommended in the U.S. to prevent COVID-19. **Pfizer-BioNTech**, mRNA, 2 doses, 21 days apart for ages 16 and older; **ModernaTX**, mRNA, 2 doses, one month/28 days apart for

ages 18 and older; **Johnson & Jonson's Janssen**, viral vector, 1 shot for ages 18 years and older.

- C. **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.
- D. **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.
- E. **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.
- F. **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 documents before they will be permitted to register for classes the second semester of attendance. Students will continue to receive notifications of incomplete file until document is submitted to the university system.
2. Immunization records are to be sent by email with other required documents to Admissions at admissions@nmsu.edu or to the designated Admissions Office at branch campuses (Alamogordo, Carlsbad, DACC, and Grants). If documents are sent to the AHC they should be emailed to campus_health@nmsu.edu. All will be loaded to the same BANNER file location. NMSU will maintain confidentiality of all immunization documents as they are covered by FERPA protection.

B. Aggie Health & Wellness Center (AHC) and Admissions Responsibilities:

1. The Aggie Health & Wellness Center (AHC) oversees immunization documentation completion and loading.
2. AHC and Admissions staff will review documentation received from students, load pertinent information into BANNER and mark as received.

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 pursuant to this rule, will be notified by campus officials. As determined by the campus president in consultation with the co-chairs of the university Communicable Disease Preparedness Committee and the NM Department of Health, non-vaccinated/immune students, may be required to leave campus and not to attend university classes/lab, extracurricular activities and university events until the emergent situation is resolved.

1. The Provost, under the direction of Executive Leadership, 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.