

Required Vaccinations



UNION UNIVERSITY

Student Life

The Tennessee Department of Health has immunization requirements for those who attend college. The requirements can be found in the [Tennessee Department of Health Rules](#).

The state's immunization requirements follow the current schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) and are endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). A brief summary of the required immunizations for colleges is listed in the [TN Immunization Requirements Summary Table](#).

Full-time Tennessee college students

- Measles, Mumps, Rubella (2 doses of each, normally given together as MMR): if born on or after January 1, 1957, only.
- Varicella (2 doses or credible history of disease): if born on or after January 1, 1980, only.
- Hepatitis B (HBV) – only for health science students expected to have patient contact (before patient contact begins).
- Meningococcal - At a minimum of 1 dose given at 16 years of age or greater if enrolling in public institution for the first time and under 22 years of age and living in on-campus housing; private institutions set their own requirements for this vaccine. Please note: there are two different meningococcal vaccines available, (one covers 4 serogroups A, C, W, and Y) – this is the required meningococcal vaccine for the University. The other meningococcal vaccine helps protect against serogroup B. While we recommend the meningitis B vaccine for students who will be living on campus, this vaccine is not required.

Minimum dose intervals - Tennessee follows published [CDC](#) guidelines. For vaccines with minimum dose intervals (e.g., MMR, varicella), doses are considered valid if given up to 4 days before the dose interval. Doses administered more than 4 days early are considered invalid and should be repeated as recommended.

Alternative proof of immunity for certain diseases - A positive serology (year of test documented) is acceptable as an alternative to immunization for measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, or varicella. For varicella, documentation of provider diagnosed varicella or provider-verified credible history of disease given by a parent or guardian also is acceptable. By documenting a history of disease, the provider is asserting that he or she is convinced that the child has had chickenpox.

Medical or religious exemption to requirements

- **Medical** – Physician (MD, DO) or department Public Health Nurse authorized to indicate specific vaccines medically exempted (because of risk of harm) on the new form. Other vaccines remain required. The medical reason for the exemption does not need to be provided.
- **Religious** – This exemption requires a signed statement by the parent/guardian that vaccination conflicts with their religious tenets or practices. If the child needs documentation of a health examination for the school, it must be noted by the healthcare provider on the immunization certificate. In that case, the provider should check the box that the parent has sought a religious exemption to explain why immunization information is absent or incomplete.

<https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/immunization-program/ip/immunization-requirements/college-immunization-requirements.html>

Specific programs within the university may have additional vaccination requirements. These requirements will be managed by the specified programs.

Students who have **not** fulfilled the immunization requirements **will not be permitted to move on campus** until it has been verified by Health Services that the appropriate documentation is received.

To ensure compliance with the above policy, Health Services will also place a “Health Hold” on a student’s account. A student with a “Health Hold” **will not** be able to register for or drop classes until the appropriate documentation is received. Any variation of these requirements will be determined by the Director for Health Services.

Sincerely and appreciatively,

Brittany Hart, FNP-BC
Director for Health Services

