



Union Theological Seminary New Student Immunization Requirement

Dear Incoming Union Seminarian,

This is a very important letter about vaccination requirements by the State of New York. All students enrolling in post-secondary institutions in New York must meet these requirements. Please review the attached forms and related information.

If you are a returning student entering a new degree program, there will be no need to submit this form since we have your immunization records on file. If you are a new/incoming student, by law, you will not be able to register for classes if you do not complete these two forms. They are due in the Office of Student Life by August 1.

Student Immunization Record Form

You should fill out the top part of the Student Immunization Record Form and submit it to your physician or other authorized health care practitioner to complete either Section A or Section B. Review the accompanying memo for complete information and instructions. It must be signed and the required documentation must be attached. Keep a copy for your records and mail the printed, signed form and related documentation to the Office of Student Life by August 1.

Meningococcal Meningitis Disease Vaccination Response Form

You can fill this form out yourself. You do not need a health care practitioner or a certificate of immunization. Please review the information provided, complete the form, and mail the printed, signed form to the Office of Student Life by August 1.

Please feel free to contact me at 212-280-1396 or ywilson@uts.columbia.edu with any questions you might have about these requirements. If you are unable to submit these forms by August 1, please contact me to make special arrangements. If you are unable to comply with this requirement by August 31, you will not be able to register for classes.

I hope this will help you to transition to Union with the peace of mind that you will be able to register for classes when you get here!

All the best,

Rev. Yvette D. Wilson
Associate Dean for Student Life

STUDENT IMMUNIZATION RECORD FORM

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Home Address _____

E-Mail Address _____

New York State Public Health Law Section 2165 requires all students born on or after January 1, 1957 to prove immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella. Exemptions may be made for health or religious reasons. See the accompanying memo for more information. **All students must submit this form in order to register for classes.** If required to comply and not exempt, **either Section A or Section B** must be completed in full, supporting documentation must be attached, and this form must be signed by a physician or other authorized health care practitioner. More information is available in the accompanying memo from the Office of Student Life.

SECTION A: Combined MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) Vaccine

Month Day Year

1st MMR Dose:

Administered no more than 4 days prior to first birthday AND after 12/31/1971

_____ / _____ / _____

AND

2nd MMR Dose or 2nd Live Virus Measles Dose:

Administered after 15 months of age and at least 28 days after 1st dose

_____ / _____ / _____

(If completing Section B, you must complete all three parts.)

SECTION B-Part 1: MEASLES (RUBEOLA)

Month Day Year

Check One

1st Live Virus Dose: Administered no more than 4 days prior to first birthday AND after 12/31/1967.

_____ / _____ / _____

AND

2nd Live Virus Dose: Administered after 15 months of age AND at least 28 days after 1st dose

_____ / _____ / _____

Illness diagnosed by physician signing this form - provide date of diagnosis

_____ / _____ / _____

Immunity Proven by Serologic Testing (Titer) - MUST SUBMIT COPY OF LAB REPORT

_____ / _____ / _____

SECTION B-Part 2: MUMPS

Month Day Year

Check One

Live Virus Dose: Administered no more than 4 days prior to first birthday AND after 12/31/1968

_____ / _____ / _____

Illness diagnosed by physician signing this form - provide date of diagnosis

_____ / _____ / _____

Immunity Proven by Serologic Testing (Titer) - MUST SUBMIT COPY OF LAB REPORT

_____ / _____ / _____

SECTION B-Part 3: RUBELLA (GERMAN MEASLES)

Month Day Year

Check One

Live Virus Dose: Administered no more than 4 days prior to first birthday AND after 12/31/1968

_____ / _____ / _____

Immunity Proven by Serologic Testing (Titer) - MUST SUBMIT COPY OF LAB REPORT

_____ / _____ / _____

(NOTE: Diagnosis of illness is NOT acceptable for rubella.)

I certify that this student has received the vaccinations, diagnoses, and/or serologic tests indicated above on the dates provided, and, according to these guidelines, he or she is immunized against measles, mumps, and rubella.

Name of Health Practitioner *(please print)*

Signature of Health Practitioner

Date

Address of Health Practitioner

License Number of Health Practitioner

PLEASE RETURN ORIGINAL, SIGNED FORM TO THE ADDRESS AT THE TOP OF THIS PAGE. KEEP A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS.

To: All Incoming Union Theological Seminarians
From: Rev. Yvette D. Wilson, Associate Dean for Student Life
Re: Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Vaccination Requirements

New York State Public Health Law Section 2165 requires that all students, including post-secondary students, who are born on or after Jan 1, 1957, demonstrate proof of immunity against measles, mumps, and rubella. This law was enacted to prevent large-scale outbreak of these diseases, such as the infamous Measles State of Emergency declared at Rutgers University in March, 1994. In order to comply with this law, Union Theological Seminary requires proof of immunity from each student.

Everyone should return the Student Immunization Record Form to the Office of Student Life (Room AD 106) before registration. ***You will not be permitted to register for classes unless you have submitted this form.***

If you are required to comply (born on or after Jan 1, 1957) and not exempt for health or religious reasons, you must fill out the Student Immunization Record Form and attach appropriate documentation proving your immunity.

If you are not required to comply or want to request exemption, please complete only the top part of the form and either: a) note on the form that do not need to comply because of your birthday; or b) attach a signed statement from a physician that these immunizations may be harmful to your health; or c) attach a signed, personal statement describing why your genuine and sincere religious beliefs prohibit immunization. You will be notified as to whether or not your request for exemption for health or religious reasons is granted.

Typically, immunity can be proved in one of three ways, all requiring submission of the completed Student Immunization Record Form and appropriate supporting documentation:

- 1) **Proof of vaccination/immunization.** If you received the combined MMR vaccine, complete Section A only. If you received individual vaccines, complete Section B. Provide a certificate of immunization signed by a physician or other authorized health care practitioner which documents immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella. The certificate must specify the type of vaccine and the dates of administration.
- 2) **Diagnosis of illness.** If you have already had measles or mumps, you are immune. The diagnosing physician must complete the immunization form and provide the date of diagnosis, and supporting documentation. Diagnosis of illness is not acceptable to prove immunity to rubella.
- 3) **Serologic testing.** If you have been vaccinated or have had the disease, but are not able to provide documentation, a serologic test (also known as a blood test or titer) can be performed by your health care practitioner to prove immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella. You must attach a copy of the lab results to the form to document proof of immunity.

A student health record from a previously attended school that properly documents immunity is also acceptable, as are military health records. Fill out the top part of the form and attach the appropriate records.

See <http://www.health.state.ny.us/prevention/immunization/handbook/> for more information, especially *Section 1: Requirements* and *Appendix D: Disease Fact Sheets*. If you have any questions about this, please give me a call at 212-280-1396 or e-mail me at ywilson@uts.columbia.edu.

Note: Every effort should be made to meet these requirements before orientation. As a last resort, you may be able to get vaccinations from Columbia University Health Services during orientation—call 212-854-7426. Free MMR vaccinations are available at the DOH Walk-In Clinic on the first floor of the Chelsea Health Center at 303 9th Ave., New York, NY 10001, between 27th & 28th streets -- for hours, see <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/imm/immclin.shtml>. Call 212-676-2273 for information about New York City vaccination programs.

MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS DISEASE VACCINATION RESPONSE FORM

New York State Public Health Law Section 2167 requires post-secondary institutions to distribute information about meningococcal meningitis disease and vaccinations to the students, or parents or guardians of students under the age of 18. The institution is required to maintain a record of the following for each student:

- Certificate of Immunization for meningococcal meningitis disease; or
- A response to receipt of meningococcal meningitis disease and vaccine information signed by the student or the student's parent or guardian; AND, EITHER
 - Self reported or parent recall of meningococcal meningitis immunization within the past 10 years; OR
 - An acknowledgement of meningococcal disease risks and refusal of meningococcal meningitis immunization signed by the student or student's parent or guardian.

Union Theological Seminary does not require a certificate of immunization, but *all students* are required to review the information provided, complete and sign this form, and return it to the Office of Student Life (Room AD 106) before registration. ***You will not be permitted to register for classes unless you have submitted this form.***

Information about meningococcal meningitis disease and vaccines is available from these sources.

- The New York State Department of Health
http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/communicable/meningococcal/fact_sheet.htm (*reprinted below*)
http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/communicable/meningococcal/questions_and_answers.htm
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/>
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/mening/vac-mening-fs.htm>
- Your personal health care provider or the Columbia University Health Service (212-854-2284)

If you choose to be vaccinated against meningococcal meningitis disease, you may do so through Columbia University Health Services (212-854-2284) or through your own health care provider. Both the Menactra™ and Menomune™ vaccines are available from Columbia for a fee - see http://www.health.columbia.edu/docs/services/immunizations/vaccine_fees.html.

Check one box, sign, and provide required information.

I have reviewed the information provided by Union Theological Seminary about meningococcal meningitis disease and vaccinations, and:

- I certify that I have been immunized against meningococcal meningitis disease with the Menactra™ or Menomune™ vaccine within the past 10 years.
- I will obtain immunization against meningococcal meningitis disease within 30 days from my private health care provider or through Columbia University Health Services.
- I understand the risks of not receiving the vaccine. I have decided that I will not obtain immunization against meningococcal meningitis disease.

Signed _____

Date _____

Print Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Home Address _____

E-mail Address _____

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

What is meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is a severe bacterial infection of the bloodstream or meninges (a thin lining covering the brain and spinal cord) caused by the meningococcus germ.

Who gets meningococcal disease?

Anyone can get meningococcal disease, but it is more common in infants and children. For some adolescents, such as first-year college students living in dormitories, there is an increased risk of meningococcal disease. Every year in the United States approximately 2,500 people are infected and 300 die from the disease. Other persons at increased risk include household contacts of a person known to have had this disease, immune-compromised people, and people traveling to parts of the world where meningococcal meningitis is prevalent.

How is the meningococcus germ spread?

The meningococcus germ is spread by direct close contact with nose or throat discharges of an infected person.

What are the symptoms?

High fever, headache, vomiting, stiff neck and a rash are symptoms of meningococcal disease. The symptoms may appear two to 10 days after exposure, but usually within five days. Among people who develop meningococcal disease, 10 to 15 percent die, in spite of treatment with antibiotics. Of those who live, permanent brain damage, hearing loss, kidney failure, loss of arms or legs, or chronic nervous system problems can occur.

What is the treatment for meningococcal disease?

Antibiotics, such as penicillin G or ceftriaxone, can be used to treat people with meningococcal disease.

Should people who have been in contact with a diagnosed case of meningococcal meningitis be treated?

Only people who have been in close contact (household members, intimate contacts, health care personnel performing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, daycare center playmates, etc.) need to be considered for preventive treatment. Such people are usually advised to obtain a prescription for a special antibiotic (either rifampin, ciprofloxacin or ceftriaxone) from their physician. Casual contact, as might occur in a regular classroom, office or factory setting, is not usually significant enough to cause concern.

Is there a vaccine to prevent meningococcal meningitis?

In February 2005 the CDC recommended a new vaccine, known as Menactra™, for use to prevent meningococcal disease in people 11 to 55 years of age. The previously licensed version of this vaccine, Menomune™, is available for children two to 10 years old and adults older than 55 years. Both vaccines are 85 to 100 percent effective in preventing the four kinds of the meningococcus germ (types A, C, Y, W-135). These four types cause about 70 percent of the disease in the United States. Because the vaccines do not include type B, which accounts for about one-third of cases in adolescents, they do not prevent all cases of meningococcal disease.

Is the vaccine safe? Are there adverse side effects to the vaccine?

Both vaccines are currently available and both are safe and effective vaccines. However, both vaccines may cause mild and infrequent side effects, such as redness and pain at the injection site lasting up to two days.

Who should get the meningococcal vaccine?

The vaccine is recommended for all adolescents entering middle school (11 to 12 years old) and high school (15 years old), and all first-year college students living in dormitories. However, the vaccine will benefit all teenagers and young adults in the United States. Also at increased risk are people with terminal complement deficiencies or asplenia, some laboratory workers and travelers to endemic areas of the world.

What is the duration of protection from the vaccine?

Menomune™, the older vaccine, requires booster doses every three to five years. Although research is still pending, the new vaccine, Menactra™, will probably not require booster doses.

How do I get more information about meningococcal disease and vaccination?

Contact your physician or your student health service. Additional information is also available on the Web sites of the New York State Department of Health, www.nyhealth.gov; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/index.htm; and the American College Health Association, www.acha.org.