

>> FAQ IMMUNIZATIONS

Please share this FAQ sheet with your healthcare provider's office to clarify the documentation needs for short-term certificate and professional programs at Mercy College.

Q: What immunizations are required?

A: ALL the immunizations listed in this guideline sheet and/or on the Required Immunizations form are required prior to registration. You may need to locate and obtain a copy of your own immunization records before seeing your healthcare provider so that during your appointment you can receive the necessary updates/boosters/doses to complete your vaccines. *Required immunizations are:*

MMR (Measles [Rubeola], Mumps and Rubella) – Documentation of 2 separate doses of the MMR vaccine. If you only have documentation of 1 MMR vaccine, no matter what your age, you need to receive a 2nd MMR dose. If you cannot find documentation proving you have received 2 MMR vaccines you can have your healthcare provider draw a blood lab titer that will determine which, if any, of these 3 diseases you are immune to. Then request updates of vaccines if necessary.

Hepatitis B – Documentation stating that you've received or are currently in the process of getting the 3 dose Hepatitis B series. The first dose is required prior to registration. The 2nd and 3rd doses need to be administered on the appropriate schedule (0 month, 1 month, 6 months) and documentation needs to be turned in after each dose.

TB Skin Test – Documentation of a 2-step TB skin test is now required initially, on acceptance to any short-term certificate and professional program. You will be required to submit documentation of the 2-step process prior to registration for classes.

1st Step: TB test administered and read with in 48-72 hours by a RN or Physician.

2nd Step: 1-3 weeks after 1st step is completed repeat the skin test on opposite arm, submit documentation of both skin tests.

If a positive TB skin test results in steps 1 or 2, you will need to provide a current Chest X-ray written report along with follow-up treatment recommendations. Chest X-ray results must be negative to start class. If you have had a positive TB skin test in the past or sensitivity issue related to PPD; submit a CXR written report from your physician that is less than 1 year old. TB skin testing is still an annual requirement, though only one TB skin test is needed yearly, after the initial 2 step process.

Chicken Pox (Varicella disease) – Signed documentation from your healthcare provider stating "had disease in childhood" as confirmation is acceptable; but if you did not have the disease, you will need to obtain the 2 dose varivax vaccine, and submit this documentation from your healthcare provider.

The College may, at its discretion, also require proof of seasonal flu vaccination prior to participation in courses that include a clinical rotation.

FYI: Mercy College does not provide any administration of vaccines. You will need to obtain these at your preferred healthcare provider/clinic. Your local county health department may be available to help with vaccines/test; or as a resource for available clinics sites and costs call United Way 2-1-1 by dialing 211.

Q: What if I can't locate my old immunization records?

A: Discuss this with your healthcare provider at your appointment. Let your healthcare provider know that Mercy College will accept blood lab titers for any and/or all the diseases listed:

- Rubeola, Rubella, Mumps (IGG)
- Hepatitis B (Surface Antibody Titer)
- Chicken Pox (Varicella IGG)

Otherwise, your healthcare provider may decide to repeat some vaccines or give you boosters. **Reminder: be sure to inform your healthcare provider if you are pregnant, or planning to get pregnant in the next few months, or are nursing a baby, before you receive any vaccines or TB tests.**

Q: How can I obtain a copy of my medical records from Mercy College?

A: Mercy College is unable to give out copies of student medical records after they have been turned into the College. **We strongly suggest making copies of your health forms/immunization records before turning them in to Mercy or CertifiedBackground.com. You will need these documents for future jobs, etc., and it is the student's responsibility to present your own records upon request.**

All medical information will be kept in a confidential file separate from the student's academic file.

Q: Where do I submit my Immunization form?

A: Students starting courses **Summer 2012** must complete and return the immunization form to the Office of Admissions at least ten (10) business days prior to attending their designated registration session. It is recommended to submit this form earlier in case follow-up is necessary. Summer 2012 students can fax the immunization form to: (515) 643-6702.

Students starting courses **Fall 2012** or later will be required to submit immunization records to CertifiedBackground.com along with the required payment to the vendor 30 days prior to your designated registration session.

Immunization Form Contact

Mercy College of Health Sciences
Office of Admissions
921 6th Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1200
(515) 643-6715
admissions@mchs.edu