



Policy and Procedure

Policy: Student Immunizations and Health Information Policy for Undergraduate Students and Graduate Students Living On-Campus or Participating in Collegiate Athletics

Effective Date: 3/17/2026

Responsible Office: Wellness Center

Scope: This policy establishes the immunization requirements prior to a student's first day of attendance for the following student groups:

- All full-time undergraduate students living on or off campus, and
- Graduate students who are participating in the college's intercollegiate athletics program or living in McDaniel residential housing (e.g. Language House Director)

The policy also outlines the procedures for the collection, submission, verification, and management of student immunization records and health information in accordance with local, state, and federal public health guidelines.

Additionally, the policy outlines the process for exemption requests and defines the responsibilities of the Wellness Center in ensuring compliance.

Note: While this policy outlines pre-enrollment immunization requirements for the groups indicated above, undergraduate and graduate students admitted to and enrolled in various academic programs or majors may be subject to additional immunization requirements specific to the respective academic program which require internships, practica or fieldwork experiences. Additional program requirements will be found in the respective academic program handbooks.

1. Health and Immunization Requirements

- A. Pre-Entrance Student Health Form Process** - Students in the below identified groups are required to complete an online [Pre-Entrance Student Health Form](#) by the required posted deadlines prior to the first day of attendance.
 - a. All undergraduate students, full-time, residential or commuter
 - b. Graduate students who are participating in the college's intercollegiate athletics program or living in residential housing (e.g. Language House Director)
- B. Minimum Pre-entrance immunization requirements for all undergraduate students and graduate students living on campus or participating in intercollegiate athletics**

McDaniel College requires all full-time undergraduate students, graduate students living in campus housing and graduate students participating in college athletics to obtain the following minimum level of immunizations prior to attendance. Students must submit an official immunization record by the posted deadlines prior to the semester of enrollment.

Deadlines: Submission of proof of immunization must be completed by May 1 for summer enrollment, July 1 for Fall enrollment, January 15 for Spring enrollment.

- **MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)**

- 2 doses of combined MMR vaccines OR 2 doses of each individual vaccine (measles, mumps, and rubella)
 - First dose given after 1st birthday
 - At least 4 weeks between doses
- If documentation of MMR vaccines is unavailable, positive blood tests showing immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella can be considered to meet this requirement.
- Persons born before 1957 are considered immune due to natural infection

- **Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis**

- Tdap (Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis) booster within 10 years of enrollment. *DTaP series in childhood is not sufficient.*

- **Meningococcal (Meningitis)**

Maryland law ([Health-General Article, §18-102\(b\), Annotated Code of Maryland](#)) requires all students who reside in on-campus housing at Maryland colleges and universities to be vaccinated against meningococcal disease unless the individual signs a waiver. At McDaniel College, this is required of all undergraduate students, both commuter and residential. The requirement can be met in one of two ways:

- Provide documentation of at least one dose of the 4-valent (ACYW) meningococcal conjugate after age 16
- After reviewing the information regarding the risks associated with the disease and availability and effectiveness of the vaccine, you (or your parent, if you are under age 18) may sign a waiver indicating the choice not to be vaccinated.

The American Society for Meningitis Prevention describes the meningococcal disease, risks associated with it, and the vaccine at this link.

[American Society for Meningitis Prevention](#)

There are 5 types of Meningococcal Meningitis- serotypes A, C, Y, W and B. McDaniel College recommends students talk to their doctor about being vaccinated against all 5 types,

C. Tuberculosis Risk Assessment and Testing

- All students are required to complete the Tuberculosis Screening questions on the Pre-Entrance Student Health Form.
- If the student answers “Yes” to any of the risk assessment questions, McDaniel College requires Tuberculosis symptom check and testing to be completed and documented by

a health care provider using the college's **TUBERCULOSIS CLINICAL ASSESSMENT AND TESTING FORM** signed by a health provider.

- Students who are deemed high-risk according to the TB screening will have to provide documentation of a negative two step Tuberculosis Skin Test (TST) or a TB blood test (IGRA). Tuberculosis skin tests must be 2-4 weeks apart.
- If a blood test is positive or PPD result is 10mm or greater, students are required to provide documentation of a normal chest x-ray which shows no active TB disease. Students with previous positive results must provide an annual symptom review and a normal chest x-ray within a year.
- *****All Undergraduate International Students on visas are required to screen for Tuberculosis the same as all incoming students. International students who answer "YES" to any screening questions will need a U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved blood test- either the **QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus (QFT-Plus)** or the **T-SPOT.TB test (T-Spot)**, and the **TUBERCULOSIS CLINICAL ASSESSMENT AND TESTING FORM signed by a health provider.** If the international student is unable to obtain the blood test before arrival, the Wellness Center should be notified, and a TB skin test can be temporarily accepted. However, upon arriving to McDaniel, these students will need to have the above recommended blood testing performed in the U.S. to avoid fines and penalties.**
- Students with a positive TB skin or blood test will be prohibited from moving into residence halls or attending class and will be managed by the wellness center in accordance with TB management protocols and consultation of the Health Department until the issue is resolved. Students who test positive after moving into residence halls may be required to be quarantined and undergo additional screenings, testing or treatment in accordance with the wellness center protocols.

D. Medical or Religious Exemption Requests

- Students may request an exemption from the vaccination requirement for medical or religious reasons as provided in Maryland and federal law. Students may contact the Wellness Center for the required forms.
- Students who are not able to be vaccinated for a medical reason may seek a medical exemption from the Wellness Center. The process to request a medical exemption will require the student to provide supporting documentation from a health care provider.
- Students seeking a religious exemption may request such an exemption from the Wellness Center and will be required to provide sufficient information to support the request.
 - The College will be guided by the EEOC's broad definition of religion in evaluating information about religious principles or practices guiding a person's objection to immunization. The EEOC's definition of religion is as follows:
 - *"Religion includes all aspects of religious observance and practice as well as belief, not just practices that are mandated or prohibited by a tenet of the individual's faith. Religion includes not only traditional, organized religions such as Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, and Buddhism, but also religious beliefs that are new, uncommon, not part of a formal church or sect,*

only subscribed to by a small number of people, or that seem illogical or unreasonable to others. Further, a person's religious beliefs need not be confined in either source or content to traditional or parochial concepts of religion. A belief is "religious" for Title VII purposes if it is "religious" in the person's "own scheme of things," i.e., it is a "sincere and meaningful" belief that "occupies a place in the life of its possessor parallel to that filled by . . . God."

https://www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/section-12-religious-discrimination#_ftnref21

- The EEOC further advises that "in most cases, credible testimony" regarding a religious belief "will be sufficient to determine that it is religious." *Id.*
- Approval of exemption requests will be made on a case-by-case basis, using the interactive process set forth under the ADA.
- Students enrolled in health profession programs who are granted a medical or religious exemption from required vaccinations should be aware that such waivers may limit their ability to participate in certain clinical placements, internships, or other experiential learning activities. These external sites often have their own immunization requirements that the institution cannot override. As a result, unvaccinated students with exemptions may face delays in program progression or may be unable to complete certain required components of their academic program. It is the student's responsibility to understand the implications of an exemption and to work with program faculty and the Wellness Center to explore alternative options where available.
- Students seeking to study abroad or participate in internships or other experiential learning opportunities should be aware that immunizations may be required for participation regardless of medical or religious exemption.

E. Failure to Meet the Requirements:

Students who fail to complete the pre-entrance health requirements (and any relevant annual requirements) will not be permitted to participate in orientation activities, athletic practices or competitions, clinical site placements, or attend classes. Residential students will not be permitted to move into college housing. A \$500 late fee will be applied if requirements are not submitted by the posted deadlines.

Policy Contact: if you have questions about this policy, please contact the Wellness Center at wellness@mcdaniel.edu or 410-857-2243.