

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS about the D.C. Dept. of Health Immunization Requirements

Who needs to submit immunization information? The D.C. Department of Health requires confirmation of immunization for all degree students under the age of 26 prior to enrollment in school. As of Academic Year 2003-2004 the following immunizations or tests are required: Polio (for students under the age of 18), Tetanus/Diphtheria (Td), Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR), Hepatitis B (Hep B), Varicella (Chicken Pox), and Tuberculosis (Tb). All forms MUST be signed by a physician, his or her representative or the public health authorities.

Where can I get copies of the Immunization form?

Immunization forms are initially distributed with Admissions acceptance packets. Forms are also available online at www.corcoran.edu, or at the Office of the Registrar at the Downtown Campus. If you'd like a form e-mailed to you in PDF format, contact the Office of the Registrar at registrar@corcoran.edu.

Where should I send my form? Immunization forms can be returned to the Office of the Registrar by fax at (202) 639-1821, or by mailing it or bringing it to:

Office of the Registrar
Corcoran College of Art + Design
500 Seventeenth St., NW
Washington, DC 20006

What if I can't get my records because they are in another country/I've moved a lot/my physician no longer practices, etc.?

If you are not able to locate your records, or are not sure whether you have been immunized for a certain disease, you can ask your doctor about getting a titer (blood test verification of immunity). If you get a blood test done, the doctor must indicate the test date and results on the Immunization form, as well as attach a copy of the lab results to the form. If you are not able to have a titer read, you must be re-immunized.

Can I just forward my health records from my last school?

No. We can not accept records from a previous institution. They must be submitted directly to the Office of the Registrar by the physician.

What if my personal physician is not in the D.C. area, or I don't have one that I see regularly? You don't have to have your immunizations or tests done by your own personal physician. Any licensed practitioner can authorize your records.

Where can I get my vaccinations? You can get your immunizations at a personal physician, or at any medical facility. If you don't have a regular physician, you may want to try a travel clinic, or try checking with your local health department regarding your state's immunization program. If you're in the D.C. area, some Metro-accessible options are:

George Washington Univ. (GWU) Hospital – www.gwbhospital.com

900 23RD St., NW – For appointments call: (202) 715-4000

George Washington Univ. Medical Faculty Associates and Ambulatory Care Center

2150 Pennsylvania Ave., NW – For appointments call: (202) 741-2200

(If you have trouble getting an appointment, it may be helpful to ask for the Travel Clinic specifically.)

These two options are probably the most convenient. Located within walking distance of the Downtown Campus and even closer to housing. By Metro: Orange Line to Foggy Bottom.

Farragut Medical and Travel Care – www.farragutmedical.com

815 Connecticut Ave., NW – For appointments call: (202) 775-8500

By Metro: Orange Line to Farragut West. No insurance accepted.

Howard University Travel Clinic – www.hubosp.org

2041 Georgia Ave., NW, Suite 1700C – (202) 865-6300

By Metro: Green Line to Howard University/Shaw.

Reeves Municipal Center

2000 14th Street, NW (at the corner of 14th & U Streets)

If you're a D.C. resident, free immunizations (but not Tb screenings) are available at the Reeves Municipal Center. Immunizations are administered Thursdays from 4:30pm-7:30pm on a walk-in basis. Proof of District

residency must be presented in order to receive services. Proof includes: current D.C. Driver's License or Non-Driver's Identification, lease with patient's name indicated, utility bill for a D.C. address (telephone bills are not accepted), pay stub indicating that D.C. taxes are being withheld). Call (202) 576-7130 for more information. Clinics may be closed near major holidays and during inclement weather.
By Metro: Green Line to U Street/Cardozo

Contact the Office of the Registrar if you would like an extended list.

What if I'm not able to complete a series of shots before the first day of school? If there is an immunization that requires a series of shots (like Hepatitis B) you just need to indicate that you have initiated the series. You will then be expected to provide updated records when the second and/or third shot has been administered.

What if I'm not able to schedule an appointment with my doctor before school starts? Let the Office of the Registrar know as soon as possible what your plans are for completing your requirements. In some circumstances, where a delay was unavoidable, a short extension may be granted.

What if I don't turn in my forms? If the Office of the Registrar does not receive complete information by the submission deadline a STOP (or hold) will be placed on your record, and you will not be permitted to register for classes. In some circumstances, your schedule may be dropped.

What if I had Chicken Pox as a child? If you've had the Chicken Pox as a child you do not need to get the Varicella vaccination. Simply indicate a disease age or date on the form. (Since kids frequently don't go to the doctor when they have the Chicken Pox, this is the ONE item that you or your parent can verify without a doctor. All other records must be verified by a physician.)

What if I've already had a Tuberculosis test? Check the date of your last Tb test! For the purpose of this requirement, you must have had the Tb test administered and read within the past 6 months (about 6 months prior to the first day of class.)

Someone told me that I should get a Meningitis vaccination. Is that true? Meningitis vaccinations are recommended by the Department of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, especially for students who are living in close quarters, like dormitories, but are not required.

What if I have religious beliefs that prevent me from getting vaccinated? You or your legal guardian (if you are under the age of 18) must write a statement in good faith specifically stating that you have a religious objection to the immunization requirement. Philosophical or personal reasons are not currently recognized by the Department of Health as reasons for exemption.

What if my doctor says that there is a medical reason for me to be exempt from vaccination? If there is a medical reason that you should be exempt from the vaccination requirement (i.e. due to pregnancy, illness, etc.), your physician must write a statement indicating the reason and the duration for which the exemption is valid. If the exemption is only temporary (i.e. for the duration of a pregnancy or illness), you are expected to complete any outstanding requirements after the expiration of the exemption.

What if I have special needs or an ongoing concern with my physical or mental health that I'd like someone at the school to know about? Contact Student Services at (202) 639-1801.

What if I still have questions about my immunization requirements? Contact the Office of the Registrar by email at registrar@corcoran.org or by phone at (202) 639-1820.