

## Sample Immunizations Questions & Answers for Students

### **Q: Why do I need to submit my immunization records?**

A: It is the law! New York State requires students to be immunized against measles, mumps and rubella.

- New York State Public Health Law Section 2165 requires that students who were born on or after January 1, 1957 and registered for 6 or more credit hours must provide proof of immunity to measles, mumps and rubella to attend a post-secondary institution.

### **Q: What is the danger of not being immunized against measles?**

A: Complications from measles occur in up to 30 percent of all cases. Serious complications of measles include pneumonia, encephalitis, middle ear infections and seizures. Measles is highly contagious. Approximately 90% of non-immune people in close contact with individuals with measles will become infected with the measles virus. For every 1,000 children who get measles, one or two will die.

### **Q: What is the danger of not being immunized against mumps?**

A: Mumps can cause inflammation of the brain and spinal cord, inflammation of the testicles, inflammation of the ovaries and/or breasts, inflammation of the pancreas, spontaneous abortion and deafness. Mumps spreads through direct contact with respiratory secretions or saliva or through fomites. The spread of the mumps virus can be facilitated by close contact in certain settings, such as college dormitories.

### **Q: What is the danger of not being immunized against rubella?**

A: Rubella infection is dangerous because of its ability to damage an unborn baby. Infection of a pregnant woman can result in a miscarriage, still birth or the birth of an infant with abnormalities which may include deafness, blindness, cataracts, heart defects, mental retardation, liver and spleen damage.

### **Q: What meets the requirements for proof of immunity to measles, mumps and rubella?**

A: Measles:

- Two doses of live measles vaccine, the first dose having been received no more than 4 days prior to the first birthday and the second dose at least 28 days after the first dose; **OR**
- A diagnosis of measles disease by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner\* ; **OR**
- Serologic evidence of immunity to measles.

Mumps:

- One dose of live mumps vaccine received no more than 4 days prior to the first birthday; **OR**
- A diagnosis of mumps disease by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner\* ; **OR**
- Serologic evidence of immunity to mumps.

\* No longer recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Schools are strongly encouraged to rely on vaccine history or serological evidence of immunity for measles and mumps proof of immunity requirements. 1

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Rubella

- One dose of live rubella vaccine received no more than 4 days prior to the first birthday;
- Serologic evidence of immunity to rubella.

**Q: What does “serological evidence of immunity” mean?**

A: “Serological evidence of immunity” refers to results of a blood test that indicates the presence of antibodies against measles, mumps and/or rubella. Positive serological test results are acceptable proof of immunity.

**Q: How can I obtain my immunization records?**

A: Immunization records are typically obtained from the following places:

- Previous healthcare professionals (e.g. pediatrician, general practitioner, etc.),
- Previous post-secondary institutions,
- Elementary or high school.

**Q: How do I submit my immunization records to (*insert institution name*)?**

A: Students may submit their immunization records via mail or in person to:

- (Institution Name)  
Street Address  
City, State, Zip

Immunization records may also be faxed directly from a health care provider, post-secondary institution, high school or elementary school to (*insert office contact and fax number*).

**Q: Where can I get vaccinated if I don’t have a primary health care provider?**

A: (*Insert listing of clinics near the institution*).

Your local pharmacy may also provide immunizations.