

**RULES
OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE**

**CHAPTER 1720-01-17
COVID-19 AND/OR FLU STUDENT IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

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1720-01-17-.01 GENERAL.

- (1) The purpose of this section is to establish a uniform policy for COVID-19 and/or Flu immunization requirements for students of the University of Tennessee (“the University”) due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. These rules are subject to any superseding federal or state law and are not to be construed as limiting the University in other areas.
- (2) For the purpose of this section, the term “student” means a person admitted, enrolled, or registered for study at the University, either full-time or part-time, pursuing undergraduate, graduate, or professional studies, as well as non-degree seeking students in University programs.
- (3) For the purpose of this section, the term “COVID-19 vaccine” means an immunization to prevent or reduce the chance of someone becoming ill from 2019 novel coronavirus, also known as SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19.
- (4) For the purpose of this section, the term “seasonal flu vaccine” means an immunization to prevent or reduce the chance of someone becoming ill from influenza A and B viruses that spread and cause illness in people during the time of year known as the “flu season.” Influenza A and B viruses cause annual U.S. influenza epidemics during fall, winter, and spring, and circulate among people worldwide.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-7-124(g) and 49-9-209(e). **Administrative History:** Emergency rules filed August 13, 2020; effective through February 9, 2021.

1720-01-17-.02 GENERAL EXEMPTIONS.

- (1) The following students are exempted from all COVID-19 and/or Flu immunization requirements:
 - (a) Students enrolling in a course of study that is exclusively online and does not involve any experiential component.
 - (b) Students enrolled in a dual enrollment program offered exclusively on the site of a local education authority or secondary school.
 - (c) Students that provide written documentation from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or other medical professional approved by the University or a health department that a particular vaccine is contraindicated for one (1) of the following reasons:
 1. The student meets the criteria for contraindication set forth in the manufacturer’s vaccine package insert; or

(Rule 1720-01-17-.02, continued)

2. The student meets the criteria for contraindication published by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) or the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP); or
 3. In the best professional judgment of the approved medical professional, based upon the student's medical condition and history, the risk of harm from the vaccine outweighs the potential benefit.
- (d) Students that provide the University with a written statement from a parent or guardian, or, in the case of an adult student, the student, affirmed under the penalties of perjury, that the COVID-19 and/or Flu vaccination conflicts with the religious tenets and practices of the parent or guardian or, in the case of an adult student, the student. The term "adult student" means a person who is eighteen (18) years or older and not under the care of a guardian, or is an emancipated minor.
- (e) Students that satisfy any other regulatory, statutory, or legal exemption.

Authority: T.C.A. § 49-7-124(c) and (g). **Administrative History:** Emergency rules filed August 13, 2020; effective through February 9, 2021.

1720-01-17-.03 COVID-19 AND/OR FLU RELATED IMMUNIZATION.

- (1) In order to protect the health and safety of the University community from COVID-19, the University may require students to have any immunizations that are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or the Tennessee Department of Health, and which are deemed to aid in preventing, controlling, or monitoring the spread of COVID-19. Such immunizations may include but are not limited to a COVID-19 vaccine if one (1) is developed and/or the seasonal flu vaccine. If the University requires any immunizations under this rule, the University shall establish a timeframe for providing proof of such immunization to the University. For any multi-dose immunization required under this rule, students will satisfy the requirement by providing proof of having timely obtained the initial dose of the immunization, then subsequently providing proof of having timely obtaining all subsequent doses of the immunization.
- (2) Any student who does not provide proof of COVID-19 and/or Flu immunization in accordance with the timeframe established by the University and after notification of the requirement shall be permitted to continue to be enrolled in classes that are available for remote learning, but shall not be permitted to participate in on-campus classes or activities.

Authority: T.C.A. § 49-7-124(g). **Administrative History:** Emergency rules filed August 13, 2020; effective through February 9, 2021.

1720-01-17-.04 PROOF OF COVID-19 AND/OR FLU IMMUNIZATION.

- (1) Proof of COVID-19 and/or Flu immunization may include, but not be limited to:
 - (a) Completed Certificate of COVID-19 and/or Flu Immunization form signed by a health care provider;
 - (b) Health department or medical provider COVID-19 and/or Flu immunization card or shot record; or
 - (c) Any other proof deemed appropriate by the University and allowed by state law or regulation.

(Rule 1720-01-17-.04, continued)

Authority: T.C.A. § 49-7-124(g). **Administrative History:** Emergency rules filed August 13, 2020; effective through February 9, 2021.