

**RULES
OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE**

**CHAPTER 1720-01-17
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 immunization requirements for students of the University of Tennessee (“the University”). 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.

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. Emergency rules expired effective February 10, 2021, and the rules reverted to their previous statuses. New rules filed May 14, 2021; effective August 12, 2021.

1720-01-17-.02 GENERAL EXEMPTIONS.

- (1) The following students are exempted from all 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 exclusively offered on the site of a local education authority or secondary school.
 - (c) Students that provide a written certification from a physician licensed by the Board of Medical Examiners, the Board of Osteopathic Examiners, or a health department; a nurse practitioner; or another medical professional approved by the University, 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
 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 physician or other healthcare provider, based upon the student’s medical condition and history, the risk of harm from the vaccine outweighs the potential benefit.

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

- (d) Students that provide 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 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 49-9-209(e). **Administrative History:** Emergency rules filed August 13, 2020; effective through February 9, 2021. Emergency rules expired effective February 10, 2021, and the rules reverted to their previous statuses. New rules filed May 14, 2021; effective August 12, 2021.

1720-01-17-.03 MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA (MMR).

- (1) General requirement: All students must provide proof of immunization for measles, mumps, and rubella within seven (7) business days before the first day of classes or the date on which the student's program begins, as applicable.
- (2) Exemptions: In addition to the general exemptions in 1720-01-17-.02, the following students are exempted from the MMR immunization requirement:
 - (a) Students born before January 1, 1957.

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. Emergency rules expired effective February 10, 2021, and the rules reverted to their previous statuses. New rules filed May 14, 2021; effective August 12, 2021.

1720-01-17-.04 VARICELLA (CHICKEN POX).

- (1) General requirement: All students must provide proof of immunization for varicella within seven (7) business days before the first day of classes or the date on which the student's program begins, as applicable.
- (2) Exemptions: In addition to the general exemptions in 1720-01-17-.02, the following students are exempted from the Varicella immunization requirement:
 - (a) Students born before January 1, 1980.

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. Emergency rules expired effective February 10, 2021, and the rules reverted to their previous statuses. New rules filed May 14, 2021; effective August 12, 2021.

1720-01-17-.05 MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE.

- (1) All students who reside in University residential facilities must provide proof of adequate immunization against meningococcal disease as recommended for adults in the current advisory committee on immunization practices "Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule" published by the Center for Disease Control within seven (7) business days before the date on which the student moves in to the residential facility. Students who fail to provide proof of adequate immunization will not be allowed to move into University residence halls unless they have a valid exemption.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-7-124(g) and 49-9-209(e). **Administrative History:** New rules filed May 14, 2021; effective August 12, 2021.

1720-01-17-.06 HEPATITIS B.

- (1) Hepatitis B immunizations are not required but are strongly recommended. All new incoming students will be provided with information concerning hepatitis B disease in accordance with state law and regulation.
- (2) During the registration process each new incoming student will complete a waiver form indicating receipt of the information and acknowledging that the University has provided the information required in this section.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-7-125 and 49-9-209(e). **Administrative History:** New rules filed May 14, 2021; effective August 12, 2021.

1720-01-17-.07 OTHER REQUIREMENTS.

- (1) All students admitted into a college of medicine, a college of nursing, a college of pharmacy, a college of dentistry, or any allied health professions program must also have the following vaccinations in accordance with current Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, subject to immunization exemptions:
 - (a) Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap);
 - (b) MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella);
 - (c) Varicella;
 - (d) Polio;
 - (e) Tuberculosis;
 - (f) Influenza;
 - (g) Hepatitis B;
 - (h) Any other immunization recommended for healthcare personnel as issued by the CDC; and
 - (i) Any other vaccination as dictated by the specific clinical program in which the student is enrolled.
- (2) The University may require students to provide proof of immunization for any other vaccination recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) or the Tennessee Department of Health. If the University requires any immunizations under this section, the University shall establish a timeframe for providing proof of such immunization to the University.
- (3) For the purpose of 1720-01-17-.07, the University may determine that no exception to immunization requirements will be granted under the following circumstances:
 - (a) In the professional and academic judgment of the applicable college or program, the risk to patient and/or student safety outweighs the need for an exemption; or
 - (b) A clinical/experiential training site does not allow for an exemption to a specific immunization requirement and the training is fundamental to the academic program.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-7-124(g) and 49-9-209(e). **Administrative History:** New rules filed May 14, 2021; effective August 12, 2021.

1720-01-17-.08 PROOF OF IMMUNIZATION.

- (1) Proof of immunization may include, but not be limited to:
 - (a) Completed Certificate of Immunization form signed by a health care provider;
 - (b) Official health department or medical provider immunization card or shot record;
 - (c) Titer laboratory report proof of immunity;
 - (d) Military form DD 214;
 - (e) Active Military – ID must be provided;
 - (f) A form immunization certificate as provided by the University; or
 - (g) Any other proof deemed appropriate by the University and allowed by state law or regulation.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-7-124(g) and 49-9-209(e). **Administrative History:** New rules filed May 14, 2021; effective August 12, 2021.