

University of Scranton

Executive Sponsor: Vice President for Student Life
& Dean of Students

Student Vaccination Policy Responsible Office: Student Health Services
Revised: July 2026
Next Review: June 2029

I. Policy Statement :

Vaccination is a safe and effective public health measure that reduces the spread of infectious diseases and helps protect both individuals and the broader University of Scranton community from preventable outbreaks. Maintaining high vaccination coverage is especially important in campus environments, where students live, learn, and interact in close proximity.

In accordance with guidance and regulations established by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Commonwealth law, the University requires all students to provide proof of immunization against certain diseases unless an exemption is granted. This requirement applies to every student (including, but not limited to, undergraduate, graduate, and professional) with any campus-based educational component. Only students enrolled exclusively in online academic programs with no campus-based educational components are exempt from this policy.

The University recognizes exemptions permitted under Pennsylvania law, including medical and religious exemptions. Students requesting an exemption must submit the required documentation in accordance with University procedures. Students who have an approved exemption may be subject to additional requirements or restrictions on campus access during outbreaks or periods of increased public health risk, as determined by the University and in alignment with public health guidance.

Students may also be required to meet additional immunization requirements to participate in clinical placements, field experiences, student teaching, internships, practicums, or other experiential learning activities. These requirements are determined by academic programs and/or external placement sites and may exceed the University baseline requirements. Students are responsible for consulting their academic college, advisor, or program director to ensure compliance. Exemptions granted through Student Health Services apply only to University requirements and do not override immunization or health standards set by academic programs, experiential learning sites, or external partners.

Compliance with this vaccination policy is essential to maintaining a safe and healthy campus community. Failure to comply with vaccination requirements or to obtain an approved exemption may result in administrative action consistent with University policy and applicable public health guidance, including limitations on enrollment, campus housing, and participation in University activities.

II. **Reason for Policy:** This policy establishes The University of Scranton's immunization requirements for students.

III. **Entities Affected By This Policy:** This policy applies to all domestic and international students enrolled at The University of Scranton, including but not limited to undergraduate, graduate, professional, and online students who have a campus-based educational component. Students enrolled exclusively in fully online programs with no campus-based educational components are excluded from these requirements.

V. **Website Address for this Policy:** www.scranton.edu/studenthealthservices

VI. **Related Documents, Forms, and Tools**

Immunization Waiver Request:

<https://www.scranton.edu/studentlife/studentaffairs/health-services/immunization-waiver-2023.pdf>

Meningitis Information Waiver:

<https://www.scranton.edu/studentlife/studentaffairs/health-services/meningitis-information-waiver-2023.pdf>

Link to Student Health Portal:

<https://scranton.medicatconnect.com/>

VII. **Contacts:**

Student Health Services: 570-941-4255

VIII. **Definitions**

IX. **Responsibilities and Requirements**

A. **Required Vaccinations:** All medical records must be submitted in English or include an official English translation. Students who cannot provide vaccination documentation may instead submit laboratory evidence of immunity (titers).

1. **Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR):** Two doses of MMR at least 28 days apart after 12 months of age.

2. **Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Tdap):** One dose of Tdap after age 11.

3. **Varicella (Chicken Pox):** Two doses of vaccine at least 12 weeks apart if vaccinated between 1 and 12 years of age and at least 4 weeks apart if vaccinated at age 13 or older. Students may submit laboratory titers if unable to provide proof of vaccination.

4. **Meningococcal A, C, Y, W-135 (Meningitis):** An initial dose is given at 11-12 years of age, and the booster dose is given at 16 years of age or older. Pennsylvania State Law prohibits a student from residing in university residential housing unless the student has received a one-time booster vaccination against meningococcal disease after age 16. Therefore, ALL residential students must have proof of this vaccine or a signed **Meningitis Information Waiver** as a condition of residing in university-owned housing.

B. Recommended Vaccinations

1. **Serogroup B Meningococcal Vaccine:** This vaccine is effective against most of the more common meningococcal infections caused by serogroup B.
2. **Hepatitis A:** Two doses given 6-18 months apart.
3. **Hepatitis B:** A series of three doses is given.
4. **Influenza:** Recommended annually for all members of the campus community.
5. **Human Papillomavirus (HPV):** Two or three doses of vaccine are required, depending on the product.

IX. Standards and Procedures:

A. Immunization Waiver Request Process: Students may request a medical or religious exemption from vaccination requirements in accordance with applicable law. Exemption requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and may be granted only for documented medical contraindications or sincerely held religious beliefs or practices. Individuals approved for an exemption may be subject to additional public health or mitigation measures. All students requesting an exemption must complete the Immunization Waiver Request Form and submit supporting documentation as outlined below. Students requesting an exemption from the meningococcal (meningitis) vaccine requirement must also submit a completed Meningococcal Vaccine Waiver Form in addition to the Immunization Waiver Request Form. All forms and supporting documentation must be uploaded through the Student Health Portal. Detailed instructions for accessing the portal and uploading documents can be found on the Student Health Services website. Students will be notified by email regarding the status of their Immunization Waiver Request after review is completed.

1. **Medical Exemptions:** Requests must include written documentation from a licensed healthcare provider identifying the medical contraindication to the specific required vaccine(s), consistent with current CDC/ACIP guidelines. Documentation must indicate whether the exemption is temporary or permanent

and, if temporary, include the anticipated duration. The provider's name, signature, license number, and date must be included. Students granted a temporary exemption may be required to receive the vaccine(s) once the contraindication no longer exists.

2. Religious Exemptions: Requests must include a signed and dated written statement explaining how immunization conflicts with the student's sincerely held religious beliefs or practices. The statement must identify the specific vaccine(s) being declined and must be signed by the student or, if the student is under 18 years of age, by a parent or legal guardian.