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## IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT FOR MUMPS, MEASLES AND RUBELLA: Questions & Answers for Students and Parents/Legal Guardians

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**Q: Why do I need to submit proof of vaccination against measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR)?**

A: To protect our community! The Center for Disease Control (CDC), Public Health Departments, and State Departments of Education highly recommend students of post secondary institutions be immunized against measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR). NYFA must also comply with the law. NY state law (PHL 2165) requires all college students to be immunized against MMR or face possible dismissal.

**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 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: Will NYFA accept proof of immunization for MMR other than the Student Immunization Record that must be verified and signed by a healthcare provider?**

A: NYFA strongly encourages each student to schedule an appointment with a healthcare provider (physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant) to carefully review immunization records, to discuss vaccinations recommended to ensure students' health, to administer required vaccinations, and/or verify students are properly immunized.

Instead of submitting a signed and verified NYFA Student Immunization Record Form, students may choose to submit any of the following to document their compliance with the NYFA Immunization Policy: a certificate of immunization signed by a physician; a copy of the immunization section of the cumulative health record from a prior school; a migrant health record; a community plan

health record; the immunization portion of a passport; an immunization record signed by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner, a military immunization record, or an immunization registry record. Submitting any of these documents instead of the NYFA Student Immunization Record Form may lead to minor delays in registration, should such documents not clearly indicate the specific vaccinations received and their dates of administration.

**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 Student Immunization Record to NYFA?**

A: Students may submit their Student Immunization Record Form via email or mail. Please refer to the Student Immunization Record Form you received in your acceptance packet for detailed information on how and where to submit this required form documenting proof of immunization.

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

A: For information on where in the U.S. to get vaccinated, please click on the link below:

[www.vaccines.gov/getting/where](http://www.vaccines.gov/getting/where)

Often, MMR vaccinations can be administered at your local pharmacy. You may also visit your county health department to receive your vaccinations. Please bring

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with you to your visit to the pharmacy or health department, the Student Immunization Record Form so that a medical professional can complete, sign, and stamp the form, as required.

### **Q: What if I can't get vaccinated for MMR nor can I submit proof of immunization against MMR before my program start date?**

A: Students can get vaccinated at a local, private healthcare provider office, pharmacy, immunization clinic, or county health department once they arrive to campus, prior to their program start date or shortly thereafter. The medical professional administering the vaccination can verify, sign, and stamp the Student Immunization Record. Be sure to bring with you and present The Student Immunization Record Form at the time of your appointment!

**IMPORTANT: Students who have never been immunized against mumps, measles and rubella will need two doses of the MMR vaccine. The second dose of the MMR vaccine can be administered no sooner than 28 days after the first dose.**

### **FOR NEW YORK STUDENTS**

NYC Health Immunization Clinic  
Extension Downtown Brooklyn  
295 Flatbush Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/services/immunization-clinics.page>

Please click on the link above for information regarding costs of required or recommended vaccinations. In NY State, college students who are required by their postsecondary institution to receive Mumps, Measles and Rubella vaccinations are provided such vaccinations free of charge.

### **FOR LOS ANGELES STUDENTS**

Students may be vaccinated at no cost for Mumps, Measles and Rubella at multiple locations within LA County. Los Angeles Public Health provides a list to

the following locations, several of which are in close proximity to the NYFA LA Campus:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/docs/MeaslesVacClinics.pdf>

### **FOR SOUTH BEACH STUDENTS**

Students may be vaccinated for Mumps, Measles and Rubella at Miami/Dade Health District, 1350 NW 145h Street, Miami, FL, 33125,

<http://miamidade.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/clinical-and-nutrition-services/immunizations/index.html>

The MMR vaccination is offered at no cost for students 18 years old and younger. For fees for all vaccinations offered to students over the age of 18, please refer to the website linked above. The facility is open Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:40 p.m.

### **Q: Does the NYFA Student Health Insurance Plan cover expenses for required and highly recommended immunizations?**

A: Yes. MMR vaccinations, and preventive immunizations, in general, are covered expenses through the NYFA Student Insurance Plan. Also, NY State offers MMR vaccinations to all college students at no cost. There are also health departments in LA and FL that offer immunizations at no cost, low cost, or based on a sliding scale.

### **Q: Are there any acceptable exemptions to getting vaccinated against MMR?**

A: NYFA honors medical exemptions, religious exemptions and offers, as well, a military waiver for veterans who can provide proof of honorable discharge. For information on how to request exemptions and waivers, please refer to the NYFA Immunization Policy posted on the NYFA website.

### **Q: What are the consequences if I do not comply with the immunization requirement and if I am not eligible for exemptions or waivers?**

A: Students who do not provide proof of immunization within 30 days of the day of registration may face dismissal from their program.