

# **IMMUNIZATION POLICY**

## **STANDARD REQUIREMENTS**

In compliance with applicable state laws and public health recommendations (New York State Laws (Public Health Law Section 2165 and Public Health Law Section 2167), Florida State Law (Education Code 1006.29), California Department of Public Health, Center for Disease Control), and to protect the health of our community, NYFA requires students enrolled in One-Year, Two-Year, AFA, BA, BFA, MA and MFA programs (For the NY campus, this is also a requirement for students attending 8 WK Acting for Film, 8 WK Photography, and 8WK Producing.) to submit 30 days prior to the first day of New Student Orientation the following:

- Proof of immunity to Measles, Mumps and Rubella
- Proof of Meningococcal (Meningitis) vaccination OR a signed response form indicating consent to either obtain or decline vaccination

NYFA also requires that incoming students carefully read the Meningococcal Disease and Hepatitis Information Sheets - two documents included in each student's acceptance packet.

## **REQUIREMENTS IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

In the event of a public health emergency, NYFA may require additional immunizations to protect the health and safety of the NYFA community. Any additional immunizations required of students will be fully described in the NYFA Public Health Emergency Immunization Policy, published and distributed, as needed.

## **MEASLES**

All students born on or after January 1, 1957 must submit proof of immunity for measles, demonstrated by meeting one of the following three requirements:

- A. Two doses of live measles vaccine. The first dose must have been received no more than 4 days prior to the first birthday and the second dose received at least 28 days after the first dose, OR
- B. Physician's diagnosis of disease, OR
- C. Serologic evidence of immunity (blood test results confirming immunity)

## | MUMPS

**All students born on or after January 1, 1957** must submit proof of immunity for mumps, demonstrated by meeting one of the following three requirements:

- A. One dose of live mumps vaccine received no more than 4 days prior to the first birthday, OR
- B. Physician diagnosis of disease, OR
- C. Serologic evidence of immunity (blood test results confirming immunity)

## | RUBELLA

**All students born on or after January 1, 1957** must submit proof of immunity for rubella, demonstrated by meeting one of the following two requirements. Please note: Clinical diagnosis of rubella disease is not acceptable proof of immunity.

- A. One dose of live rubella vaccine received no more than 4 days prior to the first birthday, OR
- B. Serologic evidence of immunity (blood test results confirming immunity)

## | MENINGITIS

**All students** are required to read the Meningococcal Disease Information Sheet provided in each student's acceptance packet and provide one of the following four options:

- A. A verified immunization record and no response form. The verified immunization record must indicate at least 1 dose of meningococcal ACWY vaccine within the last 5 years OR a complete 2- or 3- dose series of MenB.
  - o Bexsero - 2 dose series
  - o Trumenba - 2 dose series (separated by at least 6 months) or a 3- dose series (3 doses given over the course of at least 6 months)
- B. A signed Meningococcal Response Vaccination Form and an Immunization Record, as above
- C. A signed Meningococcal Vaccination Response Form indicating that the student will obtain meningococcal vaccine within 30 days
- D. A signed Meningococcal Response Vaccination Form indicating that the student will not obtain immunization against meningococcal disease

If the student has not received the meningococcal vaccine within the past 5 years, a signed response form must be submitted.

For students under age 18, the Meningococcal Response Form must be completed and signed by a parent or legal guardian.

## | HEPATITIS B

**All students** are required to read the Hepatitis Information Sheet provided in each student's acceptance packet. For students under 18, the Hepatitis Information Sheet must be shared with and read by a student's parent or legal guardian.

## | HOW TO COMPLY WITH THE NYFA IMMUNIZATION POLICY

All incoming students are required to submit, 30 days prior to program registration, the following:

- I. **NYFA Student Immunization Record Form** verified, signed, and stamped by a healthcare provider (for students born on or after January 1, 1957), and
2. **NYFA Meningococcal Vaccination Response Form** completed and signed by students 18 years of age or older or signed by a parent/legal guardian for students under age 18.

The required and completed NYFA Student Immunization Record Forms and the NYFA Meningococcal Vaccination Response Forms are to be uploaded to the privacy-secured Student Applicant Portal.

Instead of uploading a signed and verified NYFA Student Immunization Record Form, students may choose to submit and upload any of the following documents to demonstrate 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;
- a military immunization record
- the immunization portion of a passport;
- an immunization record signed by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner, 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.

Students wanting to reside in NYFA Student Housing must submit proof of immunization against MMR and a completed and signed Meningococcal Response Form (or vaccination record indicating immunization against meningitis within the past 5 years) no later than 30 days prior to move-in date. Students not in compliance with the NYFA immunization policy are not permitted to reside in NYFA Student Housing.

## **| EXEMPTIONS FROM IMMUNIZATIONS FOR MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA**

Medical Exemptions: If a licensed physician or nurse practitioner, or licensed midwife caring for a pregnant student certifies in writing that the student has a health condition which is a valid contraindication to receiving a specific vaccine, then a permanent or temporary (for resolvable conditions such as pregnancy) exemption may be granted.

Religious Exemptions: A student may be exempt from vaccination if, in the opinion of the institution, the student and/or the student's parent or legal guardian (for students younger than 18 years of age) holds genuine and sincere religious beliefs which are contrary to the practice of immunization. Requests for religious exemptions must be written and signed by the student or, for students under the age of 18, by the student's parent or legal guardian.

Requests for Medical and Religious Exemptions must be submitted no later than 30 days prior to the first day of New Student Orientation.

Letters requesting medical or religious exemptions are to be sent to:  
[immunizationsNY@nyfa.edu](mailto:immunizationsNY@nyfa.edu)

Requests for exemptions will be reviewed by the Immunization Exemption Review Committee. Students will be notified if their exemption is approved or denied within 2 weeks of submitting their exemption application.

## **| MILITARY WAIVER/EXTENSION (PLEASE READ BELOW)**

Students honorably discharged from the military within 10 years from the date of application to this institution may attend classes pending the receipt of immunization records from the armed services. The proof of honorable discharge from the armed services shall qualify as a certificate enabling a student to attend NYFA classes until immunization records are received.

## **| WHERE TO GO TO GET IMMUNIZED**

Students may be vaccinated at no cost for Mumps, Measles and Rubella at the NYC Health Immunization Clinic, Extension Downtown Brooklyn, 295 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11201, Mondays-Fridays, 8:30am-2:30pm. Click [here](#) for details.

MMR immunization services are also available at multiple pharmacies in close proximity to the NY campus.

## **| CONSEQUENCES OF NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THE NYFA IMMUNIZATION POLICY**

Students not eligible for exemptions or waivers are strongly encouraged to fulfill all requirements of the NYFA Immunization Policy, fully described above, 30 days prior to the first day of New Student Orientation.

New students who are not residing in NYFA Student Housing and have not satisfied the NYFA immunization requirements prior to the first day of New Student Orientation will be granted a 30-day grace period (in-state students) or a 45-day grace period (out-of-state and international students) to complete NYFA's immunization requirements. Students who do not meet the requirements of the NYFA Immunization Policy once their grace periods have expired will be withdrawn from their programs. Tuition refunds for withdrawn students will be granted only in accordance with the NYFA Tuition Refund Policy.

Residents of NYFA Student Housing who are not in full compliance with immunization requirements, as described above, will lose housing privileges and will not be refunded for housing fees paid.

All students not abiding by the NYFA Immunization Policy will be subject to dismissal.