

## MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY POLICY

Policy #:	03-0003				
Name of Policy:	Immunization and Infectious Disease Policy				
Date of Last Revision:	January 2024	Initial Date of Approval:	Unknown	Initial Effective Date:	June 2017
Policy Owner	Willcoxon Health Center				
Policy/Chapter Sections					
Date of Next Review:	February 2027				

### 1.0 PURPOSE

The University values and is committed to the health and welfare of members of the University community and has implemented the following Policy regarding immunizations.

### 2.0 SCOPE

This Policy applies to all University students.

### 3.0 POLICY

U.S. Students:

The University requires all students to provide records showing immunity to Measles, Mumps, and Rubella. Incoming students also must provide proof of a Tuberculosis (TB) screening administered within the last 12 months or submit to a screening by the Student Health Center. All immunizations must be up-to-date and records on file before students are permitted to enroll. Non-compliant students will be required to receive immunizations at the student's expense. If necessary, immunizations will be available during orientation, or an appointment can be made by calling Student Health Services at 417-625-9323 or by emailing [WillcoxonHealthCenter@mssu.edu](mailto:WillcoxonHealthCenter@mssu.edu).

International Students:

The University requires all international students to provide records showing immunity to Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Hepatitis and demonstrate a negative history for active Tuberculosis (TB). All immunizations must be up-to-date and recorded on file prior to enrollment. Non-compliant students will be required to receive immunizations at the student's expense. If necessary, immunizations will be available during International Student Orientation. Students who refuse immunizations or arrive without sufficient immunization records will not be permitted to attend the University.

#### Immunization Policy Requirements

Part I is mandatory for all students. Parts II and III are mandatory for students as indicated. Students should send immunization documents directly to the Student Health Center. Obtain copies of your immunization records, in English. Students should retain original documents. Copies of records may be destroyed after entry into the University database. Examples of acceptable documents include copies of

personal immunization records (“baby book”); copies of physician office or health department immunization records; or copies of high school or previous college immunization records.

#### PART I: Measles, Mumps, Rubella – Required for all students

The University requires that all newly enrolled or readmitted students born after December 31, 1956 must comply with the two-dose measles immunization policy. If a second immunization is needed, it must be the combined MMR vaccine. Students who do not comply will not be allowed to register at the University.

MMR requirements:

2 doses of MMR vaccine. SLC-7803670-1

- The first dose must have been given at age 12 months or later. The second dose must have been given at least one month after the first one; OR
- 1 dose of MMR vaccine AND 1 dose of rubella at 12 months of age or later. The second dose must have been given at least one month after their first dose; OR
- Titer (blood test) results proving immunity to measles (rubella), mumps and rubella. Documentation is required.

#### PART II: Meningococcal Vaccine

Required for students living in residence halls. Missouri legislation requires students in university housing to either 1) show documentation of meningococcal vaccine or 2) sign a waiver that indicates that they have chosen not to receive the vaccine. To obtain the waiver for meningococcal vaccine, the pdf may be downloaded and printed from <http://www.mssu.edu/health/home.htm>.

#### PART III: Tuberculosis (TB) Screening

Students must provide proof of a TB screening within the last 12 months or submit to a screening by the Student Health Center. Completion is required for all students in any of the following categories:

- From or have lived for two months or more in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, Central or South America or Eastern Europe.
- Have been diagnosed with a chronic medical condition that may impair your immune system.
- Health care work experience.
- Volunteer or employee of a nursing home, prison or other residential institution.
- Have had contact with a person known to have active tuberculosis.

If any of the above apply, TB screening is REQUIRED. TB Skin Test Screening: (Two step testing may be medically indicated). Call the Student Health Center at 417-625-9323 to schedule an appointment for the screening.

OR

Provide documentation of TB screening (PPD Mantoux skin test read and documented in millimeters of induration) done in the U.S. within the past 12 months. Chest x-rays will be required for anyone with a positive skin test. X-ray films must have been taken within the past 12 months.

OR

Provide documentation of prior treatment of active TB disease, plus X-ray results within one year.

PART IV: Immunizations recommended, but not required, for all University students:

Tetanus/Diphtheria administered within the past 10 years.

Hepatitis B (3 doses). Provide dates of any doses already received.

Influenza vaccine. Available each fall and advisable for all students but is especially recommended for those with asthma or other chronic illnesses.

Varicella (chicken pox). No vaccine is needed if there is a good history of natural infection. If history is questionable, a blood test can be done at the student's expense to determine immune status. If any of these immunizations have been received, please send a copy of your record. These immunizations may be obtained at the Student Health Center and charged to the student's account. Call 417-625- 9323 if you wish to schedule an appointment. Questions about immunizations should be directed to 417-625-9323. Compliance/completion of the MMR requirements can be achieved at the City Health Department. Other routine immunizations available but not currently required (Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Meningococcal, Influenza, Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis, Chickenpox) and travel vaccines (Typhoid Fever, Japanese Encephalitis, Immune Globulin, etc.) and information is available including the cost of the specific immunization, at the Student Health Center.

General Disease and Immunization Information MEASLES, MUMPS AND RUBELLA (MMR): These common childhood illnesses may have serious consequences if experienced as an adult or during pregnancy. TWO MMRs, or equivalent, are required for those born after January 1, 1956. The second booster must have been received after 1980, as early vaccine was not consistently effective.

**HEPATITIS A:**

A viral infection resulting in inflammation of the liver and often leading to temporary jaundice and flu-like symptoms most often transmitted by contaminated food. A 2-shot series offers protection for up to 10 years and is advised for all travelers to less developed areas.

**HEPATITIS B:**

Its early symptoms are similar to Hepatitis A, but with more severe course and the risk of later developing cancer of the liver and other complications. It is generally transmitted by contact with blood or body secretions from an infected person. It may be sexually transmitted. A 3-shot series is available that should offer 10 years or more of immunity. Hepatitis B vaccination is required of all health science students and recommended for all others.

**TWINRIX:**

A combination vaccination that protects against both Hepatitis A and B is available.

**MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS:**

Though relatively rare and usually occurring as an isolated case, it may be rapidly fatal. A single shot will offer a lifetime protection against about one half of the bacterial serotypes that may cause this disease. Immunization is recommended by the American College Health Association and state mandated for residential students.

**INFLUENZA:** Flu shots are available to all students and staff each fall/winter. It is strongly advised for those with asthma and other respiratory or heart conditions. This immunization requires a yearly update.

## TETANUS/DIPHTHERIA or TETANUS/DIPHTHERIA/ PERTUSSIS:

After the initial childhood series, a booster every 10 years is important to provide continued protection. An earlier booster may be indicated for certain injuries.

### Infectious Disease Policy Requirements

STUDENTS (including continuing education and distance learning):

Students who travel in an affected area should arrive in the USA at least ten days before the start date for classes each semester. Those arriving on campus before the ten-day waiting period is complete should report to the University Health Center for an infectious disease screening before accessing University housing or attending class.

Students who have arrived in the USA at least ten days prior to beginning or resuming classes should report to the University Health Center after the tenth day to be cleared for classes. During the ten-day waiting period, it is important to self-monitor for symptoms and to record the results. NOTE: Please present self-monitoring results to the University Health Center when obtaining clearance for classes.

Students who can demonstrate hardship beyond their control that must arrive in the USA less than ten days before classes begin should go to the University Health Center to obtain an infectious disease SLC-7803670-1 screening and clearance to register. Examples of hardships include, but are not limited to previously purchased non-refundable airline tickets; or an inability to obtain a necessary visa, etc. Those who travel in an affected area during the term of a semester should prepare to remain off campus (including classes) for ten days after their return. Students will be individually responsible for making arrangements with their instructors for class-related issues, and with the University Residence Life Office for off-campus residence issues during the ten-day waiting period. After the waiting period is complete, students should go to the Willcoxon Health Center for clearance to return to class. During the ten-day waiting period, it is important to self-monitor for symptoms and to record the results. NOTE: Please present self-monitoring results to the Willcoxon Health Center when obtaining clearance for classes.

FACULTY/STAFF (including new employees, student workers, adjunct faculty teaching assistants, and temporary employees)

Those that travel in affected areas should arrive in the United States at least ten days before beginning or resuming duties, unless approved for telecommuting. Faculty/Staff should consult a physician or the Willcoxon Health Center after the tenth day to be cleared for work. During the ten-day waiting period, it is important to self-monitor for symptoms and to record the results. NOTE: Please present self-monitoring results to your physician or the Willcoxon Health Center when obtaining clearance for work.

Failure to arrive in the USA at least ten days before beginning or resuming duties could render a faculty/staff member ineligible to perform work-related responsibilities on campus.

### Preparation and Treatment

The Willcoxon Health Center will work in conjunction with the University Department of Public Safety to implement preparation and control protocols should anyone with an infectious disease present himself or herself for treatment, or should a case arise on campus. The Willcoxon Health Center will coordinate with local and county healthcare officials and providers to assure that appropriate measures are implemented for the treatment of individuals diagnosed with an infectious disease.

The University's Residence Life Office has developed an emergency plan of action for possible isolation or quarantine should anyone residing in university housing be diagnosed with an infectious disease.

### Control Strategies

The University recommends that faculty/staff and students limit travel in or around areas affected by a travel alert or advisory issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and/or World Health Organization (WHO). Anyone suspecting they have been exposed to the Avian Flu/Swine Flu or any other infectious disease should consult a physician as soon as possible.

A faculty/staff or student, who becomes symptomatic within ten days after travel to or around an affected area, or exposure to an infectious disease, should not attend class, come to work, or attend a university event/function until diagnosis has been made and clearance given by a healthcare provider.

Immunity from Liability Nothing in this policy may be construed to impose liability upon the State of Missouri, the County Health Departments, Missouri Southern State University or any officer, employee, or agent thereof, acting on their behalf, for damages resulting from an infectious disease screening, monitoring, and/or treatment plan.

### **4.0 HISTORY**

This policy may be revised, edited, changed or removed at any time with or without notice to applicable individuals.

January 2024 – Minor Revisions – updated building name, email address, changed to new format.

### **5.0 RELATED DOCUMENTS**

None