Exemption Form for Required Vaccines

Immunizations offer safe and effective protection from vaccine-preventable diseases and outbreaks. The United States is experiencing re-emergence of these diseases, in part due to factors such as un-immunized and under-immunized persons and global travel.

The American College Health Association (ACHA) strongly supports the use of vaccines to protect the health of our individual students and our campus communities. In recognition of the vital role that vaccine coverage plays in community immunity (herd immunity), ACHA discourages use of nonmedical exemptions to required vaccines.

Vaccines to reduce Outbreaks: Outbreaks, although much less common than sporadic disease occurrences, cause great disruption and emotional and financial burdens for campuses, students, and their families. Assuring compliance with the following immunization recommendations is particularly important in preventing disease clusters and outbreaks on campuses.

Washington College requires vaccines, except by bona fide religious or medical exemptions, to help mitigate risk to our campus community and to support public health efforts in disease containment.

Religious Exemption
A religious exemption may be granted to any student who signs below acknowledging specific bona fide religious beliefs and practices that preclude the student from receiving vaccinations. This exemption does not apply if there has been a declared emergency or disease epidemic by the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health.

Medical Exemption
A medical exemption may be granted to any student who signs below acknowledging specific medical conditions that preclude the student from receiving vaccinations. Please have your practitioner forward appropriate documentation to Health Services which will be added to your confidential medical record.

Exemption based on Proof of Immunity
An exemption based on proof of immunity may be granted to any student who can provide proof of immunity to a disease based on laboratory results sent from their provider or documentation by your medical provider that you had the disease.

Required Vaccines

□ Measles, Mumps, Rubella Information (MMR)
To prevent the risk of measles, mumps or rubella outbreak on campus, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the American College Health Association (ACHA) have advised students enrolling in a college or university to be immunized with 2 does of MMR vaccine.

□ Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis Information (TDAP)
To prevent the risk of outbreak of Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis on campus, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the American College Health Association (ACHA) have advised students enrolling in a
college or university to be immunized with primary vaccine series and proof of booster within the 10 years prior to arriving on campus.

☐ **Varicella Information**
To prevent the risk of Varicella (chickenpox) outbreak on campus, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the American College Health Association (ACHA) have advised students enrolling in a college or university to be immunized with 2 doses of Varicella vaccine.

☐ **Polio Information**
To prevent the risk of polio outbreak on campus, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the American College Health Association (ACHA) have advised students enrolling in a college or university to have completed the primary series of polio immunizations.

☐ **Hepatitis B Information**
The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the American College Health Association (ACHA) have advised students enrolling in a college or university should have completed a 3-dose series of Hepatitis B immunizations.

☐ **Meningococcal Information: Meningococcal Quadrivalent (A, C, W, Y) vaccine**
The Centers for Disease Control and the American College Health Association (ACHA) have advised that students 21 years of age and younger should have documentation of a dose of conjugate vaccine at ≥16 years of age. The booster dose can be administered any time after the 16th birthday.

**What you need to know about meningococcal disease and the vaccine**
Effective 2001, Maryland law requires that an individual enrolled in an institution of higher education in Maryland who resides in on-campus student housing must be vaccinated against meningococcal disease. An individual may be exempt from this requirement if (1) the institution of higher education provides the individual or the individual's parent or guardian if the individual is a minor (under 18 years of age) detailed information on the risks associated with meningococcal disease and the availability and effectiveness of any vaccine, and (2) the individual or a minor individual's parent or guardian signs a waiver stating that the individual or the parent or guardian has received and reviewed the information provided and has chosen that the individual will not be vaccinated against meningococcal disease.

**What is meningococcal disease?**
Meningococcal disease is a rare but life-threatening illness, caused by the bacterium, Neisseria meningitidis. It is a leading cause of bacterial meningitis (an infection of the brain and spinal cord coverings) in the United States. The most severe form of the disease is meningococcemia, infection of the bloodstream by this bacterium.

Deaths from meningococcal disease have occurred among Maryland college students in recent years. Students living in dormitories or residence halls are at increased risk. The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene encourages meningococcal vaccination of higher education students.

About 2,600 people get meningococcal disease each year in the U.S. 10-15% of these people die, in spite of treatment with antibiotics. Of those who live, 10% lose their arms or legs, become deaf, have problems with their nervous systems, become mentally retarded, or suffer seizures or strokes.

About the meningitis vaccine
Meningococcal vaccine (A, C, Y, W) can be effective in preventing four types of meningococcal disease. The vaccine is not effective in preventing all types of the disease, but it does help to protect many people who might
become sick if they don't get the vaccine. Drugs such as penicillin can be used to treat meningococcal infection. Still, about one out of every ten people who get the disease dies from it, and many others are affected for life.

A vaccine, like any medicine, is capable of causing serious problems, such as severe allergic reaction. People should not get meningococcal vaccine if they have ever had a serious allergic reaction to a previous dose of meningococcal vaccine. Some people who get meningococcal vaccine have mild side effects, such as redness or pain where the shot was given (which is usually under the skin of the upper arm). A small percentage of people who receive the vaccine develop a fever. The vaccine may be given to pregnant women.

Meningococcal vaccine is available in some pharmacies, travel clinics, some county health departments, and the offices of some health providers.

I have received and reviewed the information available on the risks associated with meningococcal disease, and the effectiveness and availability of the vaccine. I understand that meningococcal disease is a rare but life-threatening disease. I understand that Maryland law requires an individual enrolled in an institution of higher education in Maryland who resides in on-campus housing shall receive vaccination against meningococcal disease unless the individual signs a waiver to decline the vaccine.

☐ Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Information: The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the American College Health Association (ACHA) recommend a flu vaccine Annually (recommendation applies to any and all flu vaccine.

☐ COVID Vaccine Information: (SARS-COV-2): Will be updated when vaccine status is available.

I have read and understand the vaccine information above and I understand the risks and benefits of the vaccine(s). I hereby acknowledge that I have specific religious beliefs, medical contraindications or have proven immunity through verified laboratory testing and decline vaccination at this time.

Please check the appropriate vaccine(s) exemption in the Required list above.
I understand that I (my child) will be required to leave campus for up to two weeks after the last confirmed case of a disease on campus if I (my child) am/is not immune by proof of immunity, completion of the vaccine series or documentation of a case of the disease by a medical practitioner.

Printed name of individual

__________________________
Signature of individual aged 18 or older

__________________________
Signature of parent/guardian for individuals under age 18 years

Date

Date
Waiver

An individual 18 years of age and older may sign a written waiver choosing not to be vaccinated against vaccine preventable diseases.

For individuals under the age of 18: A parent or legal guardian must review the information on the risks of vaccine preventable diseases and sign a written waiver that he/she has chosen not to have the individual vaccinated against the disease.

For individuals ages 18 and over:  
I am 18 years of age or older. I have received and reviewed information on the risks associated with vaccine preventable diseases, and the effectiveness and availability of the vaccine. **I choose not to receive the vaccine(s) checked above.**

___________________________________  ________________________
Printed name of individual             Signature of individual age 18 &up/Date

____________________________________  ________________________
Printed name of parent/guardian        Signature of parent/guardian /Date