

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Immunization Requirements

### Why did I receive an Immunization Form?

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has set into law School Immunization requirements that include students from child care/preschool age to graduate college students. As a school located in Massachusetts, we are bound by those laws, and therefore, our students are also bound by them.

### What are the regulations?

All full-time undergraduate and graduate students and any full or part-time foreign student attending school while on a student or other visa, including exchange students, must prove they have had the following vaccinations:

- *Hepatitis B*: Three doses or laboratory serologic proof of immunity.
- *Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis)*: One dose. Needs to be within last 10 years and should be repeated every 10 years.
- *MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)*: 2 doses or laboratory serologic proof of immunity (those born before 1957 are exempt from this requirement)
- *Varicella (chickenpox)*: 2 doses or laboratory serologic proof of immunity or reliable history of student having had chickenpox as a child is presented (signed by physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant). (Students born before 1980 are exempt)

*Your doctor may give you the vaccination(s) or submit Serologic Proof of immunity for the following vaccinations: Hepatitis B; MMR; and Varicella. (Reliable history of student having chickenpox is also acceptable for Varicella).*

Additionally, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health recommends all students receive 1 dose of MCV4 (*Meningococcal*). This is required of all students living in residential dorms (Hebrew College does not offer residential housing.)

The regulations require that the College report immunizations to the state in both the fall and spring semesters.

### What if I am a full-time online student from a state other than Massachusetts?

If you are an online student, you do not need to complete the immunization form. However, for health reasons, it would be wise to make sure you have had these vaccinations.

### What if I am attending on campus rather than online or a combination of online and campus attendance?

If you are attending any classes on campus, and you are a full-time student, you are required to complete the immunization form. You must get the vaccinations, etc., if you are a full-time student or if you are a foreign student in the U.S. on a visa or exchange program.

### I am a foreign student—am I still required to do this?

Yes—ALL foreign students, regardless of being part-time or full-time, must receive these vaccinations. If you are here in the U.S. on a student visa, other type of visa or through a student exchange program, you are required to have these vaccinations.

**What if I am a part-time student?**

The requirement is for full-time students only, although we still recommend you have the vaccinations.

**What is the definition of full-time and part-time?**

- All students in the Rabbinic School are full-time students and must complete Immunization Form
- All students in the Cantor Educator or Cantor-Jewish Studies programs are full-time students and must complete the Immunization Form
- All undergraduate students who are taking at least 12 credits per semester are full-time students—complete the form if you are attending campus classes; online students do not need to complete the form
- All graduate students taking at least 9 credits per semester are full-time students—complete the form if you are attending campus classes; online students do not need to complete the form
- All other students are considered part-time and do not need to complete the Immunization Form.

**What if my doctor feels I should not have all or some of these vaccinations?**

You must provide a letter from the physician on the doctor's letterhead stating that for medical reasons you should not have the vaccination. The letter must be specific as to what vaccinations the doctor feels you should not take. Any vaccination not listed will still be required. Be sure to return the form as well.

**What happens if I do not get the required vaccinations?**

State law says that you should not be allowed on campus to attend school.

**I have only had one or two doses of the *Hepatitis B* vaccination?**

As this vaccination requires 3 doses and it takes a full six months to go through the entire series, you should report the doses you have had on your immunization form and then continue on with the series until complete. Once you have completed the full series, please provide another immunization form showing your vaccination series is complete. The series must be completed by the end of the first year of attendance.

**I have only had one dose of the vaccinations requiring two or more doses (MMR, Varicella and Hepatitis B)?**

Complete your immunization form with the information showing that some of your vaccinations are missing. Then continue the vaccination series and when complete, provide a new immunization form signed by the doctor showing you have now had the missing vaccinations. This must be completed before the end of your first semester of attendance if MMR or Varicella. The Hepatitis is a 3-part shot and should be completed before end of the first school year.

**When is the Immunization Form due?**

The completed form is due at the beginning of your first semester of attendance. The form itself has a due date on it. September 1 is when the form is due if you start in the summer or fall; February 1 is when the form is due if you begin your program in the spring.

**I lost my Immunization Form, can I get another?**

Here is the link for downloading the form: <http://www.hebrewcollege.edu/registrar-office>