

**BLUEFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
POLICY NO. GA-607**

TITLE: REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS

SECTION 1. GENERAL.

- 1.1. Scope: This rule establishes the policy regarding the requirements for immunizations of students enrolled in Bluefield State University.
- 1.2. Authority: W. Va. Code §18B-1-6, 18B-1-8.
- 1.3. Effective Date: August 22, 1987; revised November 20, 2003; revised April 24, 2025.

SECTION 2. BACKGROUND.

- 2.1. Vaccine preventable disease (VPDs) have declined dramatically during the past 20 years as a cause of morbidity and mortality in the United States. While these declines have been dramatic, significant morbidity and some mortality from VPDs persists. College-aged students remain particularly susceptible to measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, polio, and meningococcal meningitis, and these diseases continue to be associated with outbreaks on college campuses. During the recent past, there have been numerous outbreaks on college campuses in the United States and some deaths have occurred. In view of these circumstances, the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health recommends that proof of valid measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, polio, and meningococcal meningitis immunization be an enrollment requirement for students enrolling in West Virginia state colleges and universities. In the interest of student health, Bluefield State University, at the request of and in collaboration with the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health, establishes the following immunization policy with regard to measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, polio, and meningococcal meningitis.

SECTION 3. PURPOSE.

- 3.1 The primary purpose of a mandatory immunization requirement for college students is to prevent the introduction and spread of these vaccine preventable diseases among students in state colleges. Accordingly, these regulations require proof of immunization as a requirement for enrollment in Bluefield State University. The Admissions Officer shall administer the requirements as an aspect of the enrollment and registration process.

SECTION 4. IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT.

- 4.1 All students attending Bluefield State University who were born after January 1, 1967, except those exempted by this rule, shall be required to provide proof of immunization to measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, polio, and meningococcal meningitis. To facilitate the implementation of this rule, the student shall be requested to provide proof of immunization on or before the date of enrollment. The student shall have proof of immunization by the following semester or will not be permitted to enroll in class.
- 4.2 In lieu of an immunization record signed by a physician, this requirement is satisfied if the institution receives an official record of the permanent health record with a report of immunization transmitted to it from a high school.
- 4.3 Immunization to these diseases is defined as follows:
 - 4.3.1. MMR: Measles (Rubeola), mumps, and rubella (German Measles).
 - 4.3.1.a. The person was born before January 1, 1957; therefore, the person is considered exempt; or
 - 4.3.1.b. Live (not inactivated) measles vaccine was administered to the person between 1963 - 1967; or
 - 4.3.1.c. Laboratory or serological evidence of immunity to each vaccine component; or
 - 4.3.1.d. The person presents a history of having had the disease signed by a physician; or
 - 4.3.1.e. Vaccination in 3 doses
 - 4.3.2 Varicella (Chicken Pox).
 - 4.3.2.a. Vaccination in two doses for person 13 years of age and older which must be given at least one month after the first; or
 - 4.3.2.b. Reliable history of varicella disease; or
 - 4.3.2.c. Laboratory or serological evidence of immunity.

- 4.4 Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap, Td).
 - 4.4.1 Tdap booster dose within 10 years prior to matriculation; or for students who are unable to document a primary series of three doses of tetanus containing vaccine (DTaP, DTP, or TD)
- 4.5 Polio: Inactivated (PV) or Oral Poliovirus (OPV and no longer available in U.S.).
 - 4.5.1 Primary series in childhood with IPV alone, OPV alone, or IPV/OPV sequentially, with an IPV booster only if needed for travel after age 18 years.
- 4.6. Meningococcal B Vaccine (MenB-4C-Bexsero® 2 dose series or Trumenba® 2 dose series).
 - 4.6.1 For MenB-4C, 0-1 month prior to enrollment;
 - 4.6.2 For MenB-FHbp, 0-6 months prior to enrollment.

SECTION 5. IMMUNIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Annual Influenza Vaccine
- 5.2 Hepatitis B Vaccine series
- 5.3 Human Papillomavirus vaccine

SECTION 6. EXEMPTIONS.

- 6.1 The student may be exempted from proof of immunization or from the requirement to receive a required vaccination for medical or religious reasons:
- 6.2 Medical exemption: Students presenting a statement from a licensed physician which certifies that the immunization is or may be detrimental to a person's health shall be exempt.
- 6.3 Religious exemption: If the *bona fide* religious belief of the student is contrary to these immunization requirements, the student shall be exempt. Upon submission of a written, signed and notarized statement of the *bona fide* religious beliefs and opposition to the immunization requirements, the person may attend college without proof of immunization.

SECTION 7. DOCUMENTATION

- 7.1. The acceptable proof of compliance would be a document which has been filled out and signed by a licensed physician. The document should include the month, day, and year the vaccine was administered.
- 7.2. Acceptable proof may also be provided by the high school attended. If a college receives an official copy of a student's health record with a report of immunization transmitted to the college from a high school, the requirement is satisfied.

SECTION 8. ENFORCEMENT.

- 8.1. The student shall be required to present proof of immunization on or before the date of enrollment to the Bluefield State University Health Center.
- 8.2. If a certificate of immunization is not received on or before the date of enrollment, the college shall present a notice of deficiency to the student. The student must have the required proof of immunization on or before the date of enrollment for the next semester or the student shall not be permitted to attend the school until the required immunization, proof of immunization, or documentation of approved exemption has been provided.

SECTION 9. OBTAINING THE REPORT OF IMMUNIZATION.

- 9.1. The student shall be informed of this requirement by the Admissions Office as an aspect of the enrollment process.
- 9.2. The student should make reasonable effort to obtain proof of immunization from:
 - 9.2.1. The family physician or from appropriate records signed by a physician or other community health provider.
 - 9.2.2. The high school attended. The health record with a report of immunization from any high school shall be accepted as proof of immunization.
- 9.3. Bluefield State University will advise the student to request that the student's high school health record be transmitted to the institution at the time that the high school transmits the final official transcript of grades to the college. The institution shall also communicate with high schools for the health records as it does to obtain official transcripts of grades.

SECTION 10. OBTAINING AND ADMINISTERING IMMUNIZATIONS

10.1. Students who are unable to provide proof of immunization may obtain the required immunization free of charge.

10.2 The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and county health agencies, in cooperation with Bluefield State University, will provide the immunization free of charge.

10.2.1. Students may obtain the required immunization at any county health agency which administers immunizations.

10.2.2. Bluefield State University shall work with The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and county health departments to provide vaccines to college student health centers free of charge upon request of the institution.

10.2.3. Only those student health centers with a health care provider in attendance may administer these vaccines. If vaccines are to be administered, the university student health center must assure that the student is advised of appropriate medical contraindication to the immunizations. The student health care provider should provide the medical exemption statement when appropriate.

SECTION 11. RECORDS AND REPORTS.

11.1. The college shall maintain on file immunization records for all persons not exempted from these requirements for immunization. These records shall be open to examination by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources during normal business hours.

11.2. When a person transfers to another college, the transferring institution shall, upon appropriate request, send a copy of the person's immunization record at no cost to the college to which the person has transferred.

11.3. The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources has agreed upon a request to provide college student health centers with official health and immunization records for the purpose of recording immunization which they might administer.