

Immunization Requirements FAQ

For Non-Medical Students at the University of Chicago

General Questions

Q: Why does UChicago require immunization records?

State of Illinois law and University policy require all students enrolled in on-campus programs to provide proof of immunity against certain vaccine-preventable diseases.

Q: I'm not a medical student — does this still apply to me?

Yes. The state-mandated immunization requirements apply to all UChicago students attending in person programs. Medical students have additional requirements handled through a separate medical student immunization form and process.

Q: What if I'm only taking remote/online courses?

Students studying fully remotely with no on-campus presence may apply for an exemption. Remote-only exemption requests may be accessed in your my.WellnessPortal and are granted on a quarter-by-quarter basis at the discretion of your Dean of Students office. "Remote-only" means you will not be on campus at all during the quarter.

Q: I'm a parent or guardian — can I check on or submit my student's immunization records?

Parents or guardians must have your student's written permission through a [Release of Information form](#) to discuss their immunization records with Student Wellness due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). UChicago Student Wellness cannot confirm whether records were received, discuss a compliance hold, or share the contents of a submission with a parent/guardian unless the student has authorized in a [Release of Information form](#).

Q: Where can I receive my immunizations?

The State of Illinois required immunizations are easily accessible through [local pharmacies](#) at no cost to you and are covered through USHIP or your comparable insurance coverage.

Required Vaccines

Q: What vaccines are required for non-medical UChicago students?

The University of Chicago and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) require proof of immunity against:

Vaccine	Dose Requirement
Measles (Rubeola)	2 doses, at least 28–30 days apart, given on or after age 1
Mumps	2 doses, at least 28–30 days apart, given on or after age 1
Rubella (German Measles)	2 doses, at least 28–30 days apart, given on or after age 1
Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (DTP, DPT, DTaP, DT, Td, OR Tdap)	3 doses total; must include 1 Tdap; 1 dose within the past 10 years
Meningococcal Conjugate A,C,W,Y	1 dose given on or after age 16 — required for students under age 22

Note: Measles, Mumps, and Rubella vaccines are typically given together as the MMR vaccine.

Q: Can a blood titer test substitute for vaccines?

Yes. Blood titer (serology) lab results showing immunity can be submitted in place of MMR vaccination. Ask your healthcare provider for a lab printout and upload it through the my.WellnessPortal.

Q: I received DTaP as a child. Is that the same as Tdap? Does it count toward the requirement?

DTaP and Tdap are not the same vaccine. DTaP is given to children under age 7, while Tdap is given at age 7 or older. They are not interchangeable.

Your DTaP doses do count toward the doses you need, but they are not enough on their own. To be compliant, you need at least one Tdap, given at age 7 or older. Without a Tdap, you are not compliant regardless of how many DTaP doses you have received.

Submitting Records

Q: How do I submit my immunization records?

Upload records through the my.WellnessPortal using your UChicago CNetID:

1. Log in at wellness.uchicago.edu
2. Go to **Medical Clearances** in the left-hand menu
3. Enter the dates you received each immunization **and** upload supporting documentation
4. You may use the UChicago Non-Medical Student Immunization Form (completed and signed by your healthcare provider) or upload a copy of your existing immunization records

All records must be in English. UChicago does not provide translation services, but the Office of International Affairs [lists translation sources](#) you may consider.

Q: What's the deadline to submit records?

For Autumn Quarter 2026, the deadline is Friday, October 2, 2026. We strongly recommend submitting at least 30 days before classes begin because review can take up to 14 business days and records are processed in the order they are received. See the Review & Verification section below for details.

Review & Verification

Q: How long does it take for my records to be reviewed?

Review can take up to 14 business days from the date you upload your records. During peak periods, particularly in the months leading up to the start of Autumn Quarter, wait times may be at the longer end of that range. Records are reviewed in the order they are received, so submitting early is the best way to ensure you hear back well before the deadline. Exemption requests may take longer to review.

Q: I uploaded my records a few days ago and haven't heard anything. Should I be worried?

Not necessarily. Allow the full 14 business days, then check your status in the my.WellnessPortal. Also check your secure messages in your my.WellnessPortal to see if any additional information is needed. Keep in mind that you will not receive an email when your records are approved — the portal is the only place to confirm compliance. If 14 business days have passed and your portal still does not show a green checkmark, reach out to the Immunizations Team at StudentWellness@uchicago.edu (include your 8-digit student ID).

Q: How will I know when my records have been verified?

Log into the my.WellnessPortal and go to Medical Clearances. This is the only way to confirm your compliance status, and you will not receive an email when your records are verified. If the Immunizations Team needs something from you, they will reach out to you through my.WellnessPortal, so check your secure message inbox periodically. Otherwise, no news does not mean you're compliant — always confirm by checking the portal directly.

Why Was My Document Not Approved?

Q: What are the most common reasons records are reviewed but not approved?

If the Immunizations Team contacts you about an issue with your submission, it is most likely due to one of the following:

- **The document was too small or blurry to read** — Ensure your upload is a clear, legible scan or photo. All text, dates, and provider signatures must be fully visible.
 - **The vaccine was administered outside the Center for Disease Control (CDC's) accepted timeline** — Doses given too close together or outside the recommended age window may not be accepted. Review the dose requirements for each vaccine and confirm your records reflect the correct spacing.
 - **The document is missing your identifying information** — Records must include your name and date of birth to confirm that the immunizations belong to you. Anonymous or generic records will not be accepted.
 - **The vaccine record is not in English** — All documentation must be in English. If your records are in another language, you must obtain a certified translation before resubmitting.
 - **The record is self-reported** — Self-reported immunization histories are not accepted. Records must come from a healthcare provider, clinic, pharmacy, or official registry and include provider verification.
 - **A vaccine is missing at least one required dose** — Incomplete series are not accepted. Depending on where you are in the series, you may be eligible for temporary clearance. See the Temporary Clearance section below for details.
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Q: What should I do if my document was not approved?

Check your my.WellnessPortal Messages section for a message from the Immunizations Team explaining the specific issue. Address the problem and resubmit through the portal. If you have questions about the reason for disapproval, respond directly through the portal message center and include your 8-digit student ID.

My Provider Says I Don't Need Another Vaccine — But I'm Still Not Compliant

Q: My doctor or pharmacist told me I'm up to date on my vaccines, but my records still don't meet UChicago's requirement. Why?

State of Illinois law dictates the required number of doses and proper spacing, even if your provider considers you up to date. You must comply with the State of Illinois law. Depending on your specific situation, you may need to be revaccinated.

International Students

Q: Some of the required vaccines are not offered in my home country. What should I do?

Submit the records you do have to be reviewed and then complete the missing vaccines once you arrive on campus. You can receive your vaccines at a local pharmacy near campus.

Q: Will I be considered non-compliant while I wait to be vaccinated after arriving?

Submit your existing records by the deadline and plan to complete the remaining vaccines during your first weeks on campus. If you are in the mandatory waiting period between doses of a series, you will have a temporary clearance — see the Temporary Clearance section below.

Q: My records are not in English. Will they be accepted?

No — all documentation must be submitted in English. UChicago does not provide translation services, but the Office of International Affairs [lists translation sources](#) you may consider.

Temporary Clearance While Completing a Vaccine Series

Q: What is a temporary clearance, and am I eligible for one?

If you are in the process of completing a required vaccine series — such as the MMR — but must wait the required timeframe before receiving your next dose, you will receive a temporary clearance from the Immunization Team. A temporary clearance lifts a hold from your student account for a short period of time while you are in the mandatory waiting period for the next dose of a vaccine and are otherwise compliant with UChicago's immunization policy.

Can't Find Your Records?

Q: I can't locate my immunization records. Where should I start?

Before assuming your records are lost, check these sources:

- **Your doctor's office or pediatrician** — This is the first place to call. Even if you've moved or changed providers, many practices keep records for years or can point you to where they were transferred.
- **Your home state immunization registry:** All U.S. states have an immunization registry. For example, if you received immunizations in Illinois, go to the [Illinois Department of Public Health's Vax Verify](#) portal to find your immunization records.
- **Your pharmacy** — Vaccines received at CVS, Walgreens, Jewel-Osco, or similar pharmacies are typically on file and can be printed on request. Many pharmacies also report directly to your state's registry.
- **Old school records** — K–12 schools and previous colleges often kept immunization records for enrollment purposes. Contact your former school's health or registrar office.
- **CDC Guidance** — The CDC offers additional tips for locating immunization records. See [Keeping Vaccine Records Up to Date](#).

Q: What if my records truly cannot be found anywhere?

If you have exhausted all options, you have two paths:

- **Blood titer testing** — A clinician can order titer tests (blood tests measuring antibodies) to confirm whether you still have protective immunity. This is commonly done for measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, and varicella. If immunity is confirmed, lab results can be submitted to UChicago Student Wellness in place of vaccination records.
- **Re-vaccination** — If titer tests show insufficient immunity, or if you'd prefer to skip testing, re-vaccination is safe even if you were previously vaccinated. A new course of the required vaccines is a straightforward way to achieve compliance.

Contact your healthcare provider or UChicago Student Wellness at 773-834-WELL (9355) to discuss which option is right for you.

Consequences of Non-Compliance

Q: What happens if I miss the deadline?

Students who are not compliant by the deadline will have their subsequent course registration restricted. The restriction will not be lifted until you achieve compliance. Check your my.WellnessPortal to see which immunizations remain “non-compliant”. You will need to satisfy the requirement in order for the registration hold to be lifted. If you have follow-up questions, contact the Immunizations Team directly through the my.WellnessPortal message center.

Exemptions

Q: What exemptions are available at UChicago?

UChicago recognizes exemptions for:

- **Medical reasons** — Requires documentation from a licensed healthcare provider
- **Religious reasons** — Must be submitted in writing and signed by the student, explaining the religious principles behind the objection
- **Remote-only study** — Granted quarter by quarter by your Dean of Students office

To request an exemption, log in to your my.WellnessPortal, go to the Medical Clearances tab, and look for "Clearance Exemptions." Upload the completed exemption form for each vaccine you are seeking an exemption from.
