



**Policy Title    Student Immunization Procedure**

Policy Number	4002-P
Category	Students
Applicability	College-wide
Responsible Office	Vice President for Student Affairs
Effective Date	February 20, 2024

**I. Reason for Procedure**

Consistent with the College’s Student Immunization Policy, this Procedure outlines specific requirements for implementing the immunization requirements established by State law, the New York State Department of Health, and the State University of New York (SUNY) applicable to students enrolled at the College.

**II. Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)**

In accordance with New York State Public Health Law (PHL) § 2165, all students enrolled for at least six (6) semester hours, or the equivalent, at Suffolk County Community College, who were born on or after January 1, 1957, must provide acceptable written proof of immunity against measles, mumps and rubella.

Acceptable proof of immunity consists of a *Certificate of Immunization*, signed and stamped by a physician or licensed health care provider that documents measles, mumps and rubella immunity. Students must submit this form (or other form containing equivalent information, such as a childhood immunization record) to the campus Health Services Office before they will be permitted to register for classes.

If a student’s *Certificate of Immunization*, or equivalent, indicates that he/she has (1) received at least one dose of live measles virus vaccine; (2) complied with the requirements for mumps and rubella; and (3) scheduled an appointment to return to a health practitioner for the second dose of measles virus vaccine, if this appointment is scheduled no more than ninety (90) days after administration of the first dose of measles virus vaccine, then such student will be permitted to attend classes.

Students who fail to comply fully with the MMR immunization requirements by the 30th day of the semester will be suspended from classes. Such 30-day period may be extended to forty-five (45) days if a student is from out-of-state or from another country and can show a good faith effort to comply, or when a disease outbreak occurs. Students who are suspended and who subsequently fail to comply with the MMR immunization requirements will be administratively withdrawn from their classes and prevented from registering for subsequent semesters.

Proof of an honorable discharge from the armed services within ten (10) years prior to the date of application to Suffolk County Community College shall also qualify as evidence of

immunity, enabling a student to attend classes pending actual receipt of immunization records from the armed services.

### **III. Meningococcal Meningitis Disease**

In accordance with New York State Public Health Law §2167, all students enrolled for at least six (6) semesters hours, or the equivalent, at Suffolk County Community College, must submit a *Health History and Meningitis Acknowledgement Form*, indicating that they have either (1) received the meningococcal meningitis immunization; or (2) have received information about meningococcal meningitis disease and vaccination, and have made an informed decision not to obtain immunization against meningococcal meningitis disease.

Students who fail to comply with the provisions of paragraph II(A) by the 30th day of the semester will be suspended from classes. Such 30-day period may be extended to sixty (60) days if a student can show a good faith effort to comply with these provisions. Students who are suspended and who subsequently fail to submit a *Health History and Meningitis Acknowledgement Form* will be administratively withdrawn from their classes and prevented from registering for subsequent semesters.

### **IV. Exemptions from Immunization Requirements**

#### **A. Medical Exemption**

A student may receive a permanent or temporary exemption from the student immunization requirements if a licensed physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner certifies, in writing, that the student has a health condition which is a valid contraindication to receiving a specific vaccine.

#### **B. Religious Exemption**

A student may be exempt from vaccination if, in the opinion of the College, such student holds genuine and sincere religious beliefs which are contrary to the practice of immunization. Students seeking a religious exemption must submit a written statement to the Associate Dean of Student Affairs on their home campus in support of their request. The College may require supporting documentation.

#### **C. Online Courses**

Students who are registered solely for online courses that do not require any physical presence on campus are exempt from the student immunization requirements.

### **V. Maintenance of Immunization Records**

Immunization records shall be maintained on each campus at the Health Services Office, which shall consider such information as confidential and subject to the Student Records Policy.

## **VI. Related Documents**

Copies of the Health History & Meningitis Acknowledgment Form and Certificate of Immunization are available through the College's [Health Services Office](#).

## **VII. Cross-References**

- [Policy 4001: Student Records Policy](#)
- [Policy 4002: Student Immunization Policy](#)

## **VIII. References**

- Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) [Standard II](#)
- New York State Public Health Law §§ 2165, 2167
- New York State Department of Health, [Immunization Handbook for New York Post-Secondary Institutions](#)
- New York State Department of Health, [Meningococcal Disease](#)
- [Suffolk County Department of Health Services](#)

## **IX. History/Revision Dates**

Approved: February 20, 2024 (incorporated previous requirements and procedures outlined in 2014 Board of Trustees policy and provided updated online links)