

Student Immunizations

Students – Student Life and Activities

EWU Policy 502-04

Effective: February 22, 2019

Authority: EWU Board of Trustees

Proponent: Vice President, Student Affairs

Summary: This policy establishes and describes the official policy for student Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) immunization at Eastern Washington University.

Applicability: This policy applies to all students at Eastern Washington University.

History: This is a new policy and was adopted by the Board of Trustees on February 22, 2019 and will become effective for the fall academic quarter, 2019.

1. INTRODUCTION

1-1. Background

Measles, mumps and rubella are highly communicable diseases that can be mitigated by receiving two (2) doses of the MMR vaccine. The presence in our society of individuals who have not been immunized for measles, mumps and rubella creates a significant health risk. College age students remain susceptible to measles, mumps and rubella and these diseases continue to be associated with outbreaks in the general public and on college campuses. During the recent past, there have been numerous cases in Washington State and Spokane County, Washington. Confirmed outbreaks on a college campus can lead the Spokane Regional Health District to place a campus on exclusionary status.

In the event the Spokane Regional Health District determines there is a measles, mumps, or rubella outbreak on campus, university officials will notify those students who have an approved waiver request of the outbreak. Students with approved waiver requests will not be allowed on campus including, but not limited to: attending classes, participating in campus activities, or living in residence halls. Typically, an outbreak lasts for two to four weeks and students with an approved waiver will not be allowed on campus during an outbreak. Once the outbreak is no longer in effect, students will be notified that they may return to campus.

1-2. Purpose

The purpose of a mandatory measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) immunization requirement for university students is to prevent the introduction and spread of these vaccine preventable diseases among students at Eastern Washington University. Accordingly, this policy requires proof of immunity as a requirement for enrollment at Eastern Washington University.

2. IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT

2-1. Measles, Mumps and Rubella

All students of Eastern Washington University who were born after December 31, 1956, except those exempted by this policy, shall be required to provide proof of immunity to measles, mumps and rubella. To facilitate the implementation of this policy, all students are required to provide proof of immunity prior to registering for courses at Eastern Washington University after their first academic quarter/semester.

After students begin taking regular quarter/semester classes at the university, they are able to obtain a titer or MMR vaccination through student health services at Multicare Rockwood.

2-2. Required Documentation/Proof of Immunity

Students may provide proof of immunity to MMR by one of the following methods:

- a. Documentation of two doses of the MMR vaccine that were given:
 - i. On or after January 1, 1957
 - ii. At least 28 days apart, and
 - iii. On or after twelve (12) months of age; or
- b. Documentation of a positive blood test (titer) for antibodies against MMR.

2-3. Documentation Process

- a. The proof of immunity documentation must be submitted through MedProctor, a third-party vendor who maintains medical records for Eastern Washington University.
- b. Immunization documentation or blood tests (titers) must come from a doctor, clinic, pharmacy, laboratory, United States Armed Services, school or the State of Washington.

- c. Washington residents may obtain immunization documentation from the State of Washington via MyIR at <https://wa.myir.net/>.
- d. Self-reported immunization records or blood tests will not be accepted.

2-4. Exemptions and Waivers

Students may request the university waive the MMR immunization requirement for the following reasons:

- a. Religious, Personal or Philosophical
- b. Medical
 - i. Students presenting a statement from a licensed medical provider which certifies that the immunization is or may be detrimental to a person's health

Requests for a waiver or exemption from the immunization requirements in this policy must be submitted to the Director of Health, Wellness and Prevention Services at least two weeks prior to the start of the quarter or semester in which the student plans to enroll. The Director will approve or deny any waiver requests.

Any student who requests a waiver assumes the risk and responsibility for the consequences of not being immunized in the event the Spokane Regional Health District places the university on exclusionary status or otherwise restricts access to the campus. This includes, but is not limited to, the inability to attend class, eat in dining facilities, use university facilities, or remain in a residence hall.

3. ENFORCEMENT

Students who have not submitted proof of immunity or have not received an exemption or waiver will have a registration hold placed on their student account for the following academic quarter or semester. The student will not be permitted to register for classes or attend school until the required documentation or approved waiver or exemption has been provided

The registration hold will be lifted once the student has submitted the appropriate documentation or approved waiver.