

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Policy Manual

SUBJECT: General Admission Immunization Requirements

NUMBER: 2.2.1.2

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to comply with [South Dakota Codified Law § 13-53-46 through § 13-53-48](#) and to ensure student health and safety.

B. DEFINITIONS

See BOR Policy 2.2.1.1 – System General Admissions.

1. **Student:** For the purposes of this policy, per [SDCL § 13-53-46](#), a student is defined as, “any person born after 1956 who is registering for more than one class during an academic term, such as a quarter or a semester. The term includes any person who meets face-to-face at least once per week to receive instruction. The term does not include any person who receives non-credit-bearing or on-the-job training services.

C. SOUTH DAKOTA CODIFIED LAW IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Immunization for Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)

- 1.1 Required doctor’s certificate of immunization must be provided to the institution.
- 1.2 As an alternative to the requirement for a physician's certification, the student may present:
 - 1.2.1 Certification from a licensed physician stating the physical condition of the student would be such that immunization would endanger the student's life or health;
 - 1.2.2 Certification from a licensed physician stating the student has experienced the natural disease against which the immunization protects;
 - 1.2.3 Confirmation from a laboratory of the presence of adequate immunity; or
 - 1.2.4 A written statement signed by the student that the student is an adherent to a religious doctrine whose teachings are opposed to such immunizations. If the student is under the age of eighteen (18), the written statement shall be signed by one parent or guardian.

2. Timeline

- 2.1 The institution shall require that the documentation from the student be submitted within forty-five (45) days after the start of classes.

- 2.2 A student may register and be enrolled during the first semester period up to forty-five (45) days, however, for clinical programs these requirements must be met before matriculation to certain clinical sites.
- 2.3 Every attempt should be made to collect this information at the time of admission.
- 2.4 Students who are unable to ascertain their immunization status may obtain, at their own expense, the necessary tests and vaccination from the Student Health Service of their university.

D. STATE EPIDEMIC – MEASLES, MUMPS, OR RUBELLA (MMR)

In the event the South Dakota State Department of Health declares an epidemic of measles, mumps or rubella, the institution involved shall provide to the State Department of Health a list of students who have not submitted immunization documentation.

1. Subsequent campus actions shall consider the advice and authority of the South Dakota State Department of Health.
2. Students who have no vaccination or immunity against the required preventable infectious diseases may be dismissed from the institution for the safety of that student or students.

E. MISCELLANEOUS VACCINATIONS

For the protection of the health of the students and because of the risks of exposure to infectious diseases, certain tests and immunizations are required. In part, these additional immunizations are part of the institution's ongoing affiliation agreements with third-party sites. This is not an exhaustive list as each institution may vary in mission and programming that partner with external agencies or organizations. Some of the more common immunizations required for internships or clinical placements include:

- Hepatitis B
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis
- Varicella
- Covid
- Annual Influenza

Each institution will compile information about current program-related vaccination requirements and make this information available to students along with other curricular and registration materials. If the immunization is a requirement for program enrollment, then this must be met prior to any registration. It will be the responsibility of the department of the specific health profession program to ensure that the vaccination requirement has been met.

Additional vaccinations may be highly recommended for campus residential living.

F. WAIVERS AND EXEMPTIONS

A student can request a waiver and/or an exemption for MMR under sections C.1 or E by first communicating with the institution they are enrolled. Each institution will establish a procedure for requesting a waiver or exemption. It is important to note that this exemption or waiver is only eligible for the institution and not for a third party. For some programs, waivers will not extend to third party organizations (i.e., clinical sites).

G. FAILURE TO PROVIDE VACCINATION RECORD

A student who fails to provide satisfactory documentation of his or her immune status shall not be permitted to continue classes except with proper approval for accommodation exempting them from any required vaccinations.

1. The student will be removed from the current class(es) after the forty-fifth (45th) day.
2. In the case of classes delivered in less than forty-five (45) days, students will not be able to register for or to attend classes beginning in a subsequent term.
3. Nothing in this policy shall prohibit a program from removing a student from a clinical placement or internship course prior to the timelines outlined above if vaccination is required by the facility hosting the internship or clinical placement.

FORMS/APPENDICES:

None

SOURCE:

BOR October 2024.