



**THE GEORGE  
WASHINGTON  
UNIVERSITY**  
WASHINGTON, DC

**Responsible University Official:** Senior Associate Dean for Health Sciences

**Responsible Office:** Health Sciences Dean's Office

**Last Revised Date:** March 7, 2018

## **Health Screening and Immunization Policy**

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### **Policy Statement**

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The George Washington University (GW) expects its students to meet minimum requirements for health screening and immunization. The University also expects students to comply with District of Columbia law to regarding documenting proof of certain vaccinations for individuals under the age of 26 years. Programs within the Health Sciences at GW (GW Health Sciences) expect students to comply with additional health screening and immunization requirements, including special requirements for students who will participate in educational experiences in patient care or clinical research settings. The respective program handbook describes these requirements in more detail, as applicable.

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### **Reason for Policy**

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GW Health Sciences is committed to fostering a healthy, safe environment for all employees, students and volunteers. We are committed to protecting the health and safety of students as well those with whom they may interact in any patient care, research and laboratory settings associated with their programs of study. Further, students must demonstrate their ability to meet and maintain compliance with any program-specific essential functions and technical standards. To support a healthy, safe learning environment, this policy describes health screening and immunization requirements for admission, continuance and graduation from GW Health Sciences programs of study. This policy also introduces essential functions and technical standards, which are further defined by the respective program of study or discipline as well as discussed in GW Health Sciences published guidance on admissions.

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### **Who is Governed by this Policy**

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All students enrolled in a Health Sciences program at the George Washington University (GW Health Sciences). Some facets of this policy specifically apply to students, who as a part of their training, interact with patients and/or train in any setting (e.g. health care facility, clinical laboratory, research facility, etc.) with the potential for occupational exposure to blood or body fluids.

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## Policy

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Entry requirements:

All students under the age of 26 years must have documentation on file with GW Student Health Services that attests to compliance with all required health screening and immunizations. The screening and immunization requirements differ by student age at time of entry into the University and by specific program of study. These requirements are also reviewed (and updated, if applicable) annually for consistency with current scientific and clinical recommendations from federal (e.g. ACIP) and local (e.g. IPAC) health authorities as well as recommendations from a leading association of college health experts (e.g. AHCA). Specific requirements by student category and program of study are specified in resource documents identified within this policy:

Students must comply with all requirements that apply as a function of age at time of entry into GW and program of study.

### **Health Screening and Immunization Requirements for Students under the Age of 26 Years** (note: Age at time of entry into GW)

- Students in this category will meet the general requirements as defined by the University. Refer to additional screening requirements below if you are enrolled in a program of study with potential for occupational exposure to blood or body fluids.

### **Health Screening and Immunization Requirements for Students Age 26 Years and Older** (note: Age at time of entry into GW)

- Students in this category

### **Health Screening and Immunization Requirements for Students in Programs of Study with Potential for Occupational Exposure to Blood or Body Fluids**

- Students in this category must meet additional requirements to support their health and safety as well as comply with clearance requirements set forth by affiliated training sites (e.g. clinics, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, clinical research facilities, etc.) related to their program of study.

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## **Definitions**

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### **Program of Study with Potential for Occupational Exposure to Blood or Body Fluids:**

Any academic program in which any portion of training occurs in a setting with the potential for occupational exposure to blood or body fluids.

Common examples include academic programs in the health professions that incorporate training experiences in patient care settings (e.g. hospitals, physician offices, rehabilitation centers, long term care facilities, military medical sites, etc.) or clinical/medical laboratories. Additionally, programs that include field experiences or internships in which patient care, clinical research, or public health activities occur would be included.

**Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP):** ACIP comprises medical and public health experts who develop recommendations on the use of vaccines in the civilian population of the United States. The recommendations stand as public health guidance for safe use of vaccines and related biological products.

### **District of Columbia Immunization Practices Advisory Committee (IPAC):**

IPAC is a collaboration of representatives from clinical settings, public health, health plans, professional organizations, educational institutions, community-based organizations and others invested in the prevention and control of vaccine-preventable diseases in the District of Columbia.

**American College Health Association (ACHA):** ACHA is the principal leadership organization for advancing the health of college students and campus communities

through advocacy, education, and research. More than 800 higher education institutions participate as members of ACHA, representing a diverse community of colleges and universities.

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## Related Information

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<https://registrar.gwu.edu/vaccination-requirements>

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## Contacts

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Health Sciences Dean's Office	202-994-0384	hsp@gwu.edu

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## Document History

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- **Last Reviewed Date:** March 7, 2018
- **Last Revised Date:** March 7, 2018
- **Policy Origination Date:** January 2018

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## Who Approved This Policy

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Reamer Bushardt, Senior Associate Dean for Health Sciences  
Mary Lynn Reed, Senior Counsel, Medical Center

*This policy, as well as all **university policies**, are located on the **Office of Compliance and Privacy**'s home page.*