

# Immunization Record for Students Attending Post-Secondary Schools in Minnesota

Student Name (Last, First, M.I.):	Date of Birth:	Student ID Number:	Date of Enrollment (Mo/Yr):
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Minnesota Law (M.S. 135A.14) requires proof that all students born after 1956 are vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, and rubella, allowing for certain specified exemptions (see below). Any non-exempt student who fails to submit the required information **within 45 days** after first enrollment cannot remain enrolled. This form is designed to provide the school with the information required by the law and will be available for review by the Minnesota Department of Health and the local health agency.

Check here if you were **born before 1957** for the age exemption. You don't have to complete the rest of this form.

*All other students who are not age-exempt: Complete parts 1, 2, 3, and/or 4 below.*

### Part 1: Students graduating from a **Minnesota** high school in **1997 or later**

I have previously met the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) and Td (tetanus, diphtheria) requirements because **I graduated from a Minnesota high school in 1997 or later.**

Student's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of high school:	City:	Date of graduation:
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### Part 2: Transfer students from another **Minnesota** college

I am exempt from these requirements because my admission records indicate I have met the requirements as an enrolled student in another post-secondary school in Minnesota. Student's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Part 3: Students who graduated from a Minnesota high school <b>before 1997</b> or students from <b>out of state</b>	Mo/Day/Yr	Mo/Day/Yr	Mo/Day/Yr	Mo/Day/Yr
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Tetanus/diphtheria (Td) <i>(at least one dose required <b>within past 10 years</b>)</i>				
Measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) <i>(at least one dose required at or after 12 months of age)</i>				

I certify that the above information is a true and accurate statement of the dates on which I was vaccinated.

Student's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Part 4: Other exemption(s)

**Medical Exemption:** The student named above lacks one or more of the required immunizations because he/she: *(Check all that apply and fill in the appropriate blanks.)*

- has a medical problem that precludes the \_\_\_\_\_ vaccine
- has not been immunized because of a history of \_\_\_\_\_ disease
- has laboratory evidence of immunity against \_\_\_\_\_ disease

Physician's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Conscientious Exemption:** I hereby certify by notarization that immunization against \_\_\_\_\_ disease is contrary to my conscientiously held beliefs.

Student's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

Signature of **notary** \_\_\_\_\_

**Immunization Program**  
800-657-3970, 651-201-5503  
[www.health.state.mn.us/immunize](http://www.health.state.mn.us/immunize)  
IC#140-0473 HE# 01477-03 (MDH, 2/06)

**East Grand Forks, MN**  
2022 Central Ave NE  
East Grand Forks, MN 56721  
Local: (218) 773-3441  
Toll-free: 1-800-451-3441  
Fax: (218) 773-4502  
TDD: (218) 773-4541

**Thief River Falls, MN**  
1101 Highway One E  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701  
Local: (218) 681-0701  
Toll-free: 1-800-959-6282  
Fax: (218) 681-0774  
TDD: (218) 681-0990

# Minnesota's College Immunization Law

## Here's what you need to know about the College Immunization Law

When you enroll in college in Minnesota, you may need to show that you've been vaccinated against five major vaccine-preventable diseases: measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, and diphtheria. The Minnesota College Immunization Law applies to anyone who was born after 1956. However, students who graduated from a Minnesota high school in 1997 or later are exempt from these requirements under the law (because they will already have met them as a high school student), although some colleges may require proof of immunizations from these students too. Minnesota laws also require post-secondary schools to provide students with information on the transmission, treatment, and prevention of hepatitis A, B, C, and meningococcal disease.

## But adults don't get these diseases – do they?

At one time, getting the mumps or the measles was a normal part of growing up. Then, during the 1960s, effective vaccines became available and we all but eliminated these "childhood" diseases.

But today, while the incidence of disease has dropped dramatically in young children, there are still occasional outbreaks of these diseases and they more often than not affect young adults. It's important, too, for adults of all ages to get "boosted" for tetanus and diphtheria every 10 years throughout their lifetime.

## But these diseases aren't very serious – are they?

**Measles** is the most serious of these five diseases. It can cause life-threatening pneumonia and brain inflammation, middle-ear infections, severe diarrhea, and sometimes convulsions. The risk of death from measles is known to be higher in adults than in children.

**Mumps** can cause hearing loss. And, about one out of four teenage or adult men who have

mumps may experience swelling of the testicles. In rare cases, sterility can result.

**Rubella** is usually a mild disease in children. But it can be very serious if a grown woman gets rubella during the first three months of pregnancy. The disease can cause serious birth defects including glaucoma, cataracts, deafness, and mental retardation.

**Tetanus** or "lockjaw" can lead to fatal complications. Even small burns or scratches can be a source of infection, and deep puncture wounds are especially dangerous.

**Diphtheria** is a serious bacterial disease that affects the tonsils, throat, nose, and/or skin. It can lead to breathing problems, heart failure, paralysis, and sometimes death.

**Hepatitis B** is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). Hepatitis B is a highly contagious disease that infects the liver and can lead to cirrhosis, liver cancer, and even death. Hepatitis B is spread through contact with the blood of an infected person or by having sex with an infected person.

**Hepatitis A** is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV). Hepatitis A can affect anyone. Hepatitis A is still a common disease in the United States and is spread by close contact with someone who is infected. It is also spread by contaminated food and water. Adults need hepatitis A vaccine for long-term protection.

**Hepatitis C** is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV), which is found in the blood of persons who have this disease. The infection is spread by contact with the blood of an infected person. Most persons who get hepatitis C carry the virus for the rest of their lives. *There is no vaccine to prevent hepatitis C.*

**Meningococcal disease** is a serious illness, caused by a bacteria. Meningococcal disease is a leading cause of meningitis, an infection of the lining of the brain and the spinal cord. Meningococcal disease also causes blood

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infections. Anyone can get meningococcal disease. College freshmen who live in dormitories or close living quarters have an increased risk of getting meningococcal disease.

### So, what do I have to do?

Under Minnesota law, you have to submit a complete immunization record to your college or meet one of the legal exemptions (see below). You might be automatically exempt if you graduated from high school in Minnesota since 1997 or you previously were enrolled in another college in Minnesota (in which case your former college record should indicate that you met the law's requirements).

### Are there other legal exemptions?

Yes. You don't have to get the shots if you've already had one of the diseases such as measles, mumps, or rubella. Or your doctor can sign an exemption if you have another medical reason not to be vaccinated (like you've had a lab test showing you're immune or you're pregnant).

You may also have religious or philosophical objections to being immunized. If so, you can submit a notarized statement of your beliefs.

### What if I can't find my shot record?

Try to remember where you were immunized, and see if your doctor or clinic still has the records. Your parents may be able to help. If you attended school in Minnesota (before college) your former school district may still have your records.

If you still can't find your records, you'll probably have to repeat the shots. This time, be sure to keep a record.

### Are the shots safe?

The vaccines are very safe and highly effective. There can be side effects, but they are usually brief and not very serious – a slight fever, a sore arm, a mild feeling of illness. More severe side effects do occur, in rare cases. But that risk

has to be compared with the risk you will face if you don't get immunized. Without shots, your chances of becoming ill and suffering serious complications are much higher.

### Where can I get the shots?

Your own physician can provide the shots you need. If you don't have a physician, or you don't have health insurance, you may be able to get the shots through a community clinic. Call your county or city health department for more information. Your college may also offer the shots through the health service or a special immunization clinic.

### If I'm not required to receive hepatitis A and B and meningococcal shots, should I still get them?

Yes. For example:

- College freshmen living in dorms or close living quarters are at a higher risk for meningitis. There is a vaccine to protect against the disease.
- Hepatitis B is a highly contagious disease that infects the liver. The highest rate of disease occurs in persons 20-49 years of age.
- Hepatitis A is still a common disease in the United States. Hepatitis A symptoms are much more severe in adults than in children. Infected persons may need to rest in bed for days or weeks, and won't be able to drink alcohol until they are well.
- If you will be **traveling internationally**, it's likely you'll need even more shots. Be sure to check with your doctor to see what additional shots you might need.



Immunization Program  
 P.O. Box 64975  
 St. Paul, MN 55164-0975  
 651-201-5503 or 1-800-657-3970  
[www.health.state.mn.us/immunize](http://www.health.state.mn.us/immunize)