



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**TO:** College Health Services and Administrative Personnel

**FROM:** Mick Bolduc  
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**DATE:** February 1, 2010

**SUBJECT:** New College Immunization Requirements

Beginning August 1, 2010, Section 10a-155 of the Connecticut general statutes will require that each full time or matriculating student provide proof of adequate immunization against measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) and varicella as recommended by the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP). Several questions have arisen concerning the interpretation of these requirements. The following information should help clarify which students are affected and what documentation is required for entry into each institution of higher learning. A copy of the statute is available at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2009/pub/chap185b.htm#Sec10a-155.htm>

### Full Time/Matriculating Students

The new requirements will affect all full time students as well as all matriculating students. Matriculating students are defined as those enrolled in a degree-seeking program. Part time non-matriculating students are **not required** to have MMR and varicella immunizations although they are **recommended** to have those vaccines by ACIP.

### MMR Vaccine

Beginning August 1, 2010 **all incoming freshman** will be required to show proof of 2 doses of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine. The doses should be separated by at least 28 days with dose number one given on or after the first birthday. Exemptions to this requirement include:

1. Individuals born before January 1, 1957,
2. Laboratory confirmation of immunity to such disease,
3. Documentation from a physician stating that the student is medically contraindicated from receiving such vaccine,
4. Documentation from the student that such an immunization is contrary to his/her religious beliefs,
5. Documentation from a physician or director of health that the student has had a confirmed case of such disease,
6. Students who graduated from a Connecticut high school in 1999 or later and were not exempt from MMR vaccinations,
7. Enrollment in a distance-learning program conducted entirely through electronic media in a setting without other students present.

## Varicella Vaccine

Beginning August 1, 2010 **all incoming freshman** will be required to show proof of 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine. The doses should be separated by at least 28 days with dose number one given on or after the first birthday. Exemptions to this requirement include:

1. Individuals born in the United States before January 1, 1980,
2. Laboratory confirmation of immunity to such disease,
3. Documentation from a physician stating that the student is medically contraindicated from receiving such vaccine,
4. Documentation from the student that such an immunization is contrary to his/her religious beliefs,
5. Documentation from a physician or director of health that the student has had a confirmed case of such disease,
6. Enrollment in a distance-learning program conducted entirely through electronic media in a setting without other students present.

**Graduation from a Connecticut high school in 1999 or later does NOT apply to varicella vaccine.** Adequate evidence of immunity and the exemptions noted above are consistent with the ACIP varicella recommendations. Parental or self-report of historic varicella disease is no longer considered acceptable evidence of immunity, as naturally occurring infection has declined dramatically and clinical illness has become more difficult to recognize. The full ACIP recommendations for prevention of varicella are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5604a1.htm>.

As always if you have any questions, please free feel to contact my office at (860) 509-7929.