Vaccination Policy

Immunization against life-threatening diseases is an important tool in the prevention and mitigation of infectious disease outbreaks. This vaccine policy may be modified in response to changes in public health requirements or recommendations. In order to protect the health of both students and the community as a whole, Caltech has required the following vaccines (or serologic proof indicating immunity, when applicable) for all enrolled students:

- MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella)
- Varicella (chicken pox)
- Hepatitis B
- Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis)
- Meningitis (meningococcal serotypes A, C, W, Y)

As of April 19, 2021, all individuals age 16 and older in the United States are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. All students living in Caltech's on-campus undergraduate residences during summer 2021 will be required to submit proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 by June 1, 2021. All students who enroll for the fall 2021 term will be required to submit proof of immunization by August 15, 2021, with an option to decline vaccination for personal reasons while all available vaccines are currently under Emergency Use Authorization by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Once one or more COVID-19 vaccines have been fully approved by the FDA, the COVID-19 vaccine will become a required immunization, and subject to the standard exemption policy, which allows for exemption due to medical contraindications only.

For individuals who have been vaccinated in another country, Caltech is prepared to accept immunization records for all vaccines recognized by local public health officials, in accordance with guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Presently this includes vaccines authorized for use by the World Health Organization. Students may send a secure message to Student Wellness Services through the Caltech Student Health Portal for consultation on their specific circumstances.

In addition, Caltech strongly recommends, but does not require, the following vaccines:

- Annual influenza
- HPV (human papilloma virus)
- Meningitis B (meningococcal serotype B)
Exemptions

If certain immunizations are contraindicated due to a medical condition, you may be exempt from immunization requirements. You will need to submit a Vaccination Exemption Form signed by a licensed healthcare provider. Vaccination Exemption Forms may be submitted by mail, fax, or via the Caltech Student Health Portal.

Caltech highly recommends that students with immunization exemptions submit results of serologic proof (blood tests to determine immunity) for measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella. Students who do not do so, or whose results do not show that they have immunity, may be temporarily excluded from classes, research/field trips, residence halls, and any Institute-sponsored activities in the event of any vaccine-preventable disease outbreak or threatened outbreak.

Compliance

Students who plan to live in on-campus undergraduate housing during summer 2021 must provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination no later than June 1, 2021. Students who submit a Vaccination Exemption Form will be considered for reasonable accommodations. Students who exercise the personal declination option for the COVID-19 vaccine are not eligible for on-campus undergraduate housing.

All currently enrolled students, regardless of matriculation date, must submit proof of COVID-19 vaccination, or a fully executed Statement of Declination by August 15, 2021.

Students who matriculated remotely in 2020-2021, will matriculate in 2021-2022, or who otherwise have not yet completed their mandatory entrance health forms must complete their health forms and show proof of all required vaccinations, including COVID-19 or a fully executed Statement of Declination by August 15, 2021.

Students who do not complete the required health forms and proof of required immunizations by the due date will have a registration hold placed on their record and will be excluded from classes and activities until the requirements are met. Students with summer 2021 on-campus undergraduate housing contracts will not be permitted to move in and will have their housing contracts canceled if proof of vaccination is not received by June 1, 2021.

Students who are unable to access required vaccines in their home country, or who otherwise have concerns or questions, should contact Student Wellness Services through the Caltech Student Health Portal for assistance. Students who are in the process of completing their mandatory entrance health forms who require assistance obtaining access to required or recommended vaccines upon arrival to the US will be provided information about how to obtain vaccinations within 2 weeks of arrival to Caltech.