

## 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. 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)
- COVID-19

### COVID-19 Vaccination

As of May 10, 2021, all individuals age 12 and older in the United States are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. All students must submit proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 by October 15, 2021.

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**

All currently enrolled students, regardless of matriculation date, must provide updated proof of COVID-19 vaccination no later than January 15, 2022 or no later than 30 days from the date of their eligibility to receive a booster, whichever is earlier. For purposes of this policy, this means that those students who received their primary two-dose vaccination series with either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines must also provide proof that they received a booster dose at least six months following the second dose. Those students 18 and older who received their primary vaccination with the one-dose J&J/Janssen vaccine must also provide proof that they received a booster dose at least two months after their primary vaccination.

Students who received a WHO-approved vaccine must provide proof that they received a booster dose of Pfizer vaccine six months following their last dose of a prior vaccine series.

Students who submit a valid Vaccination Exemption Form will be considered for reasonable accommodations.

Students who do not complete and submit the required health forms and updated proof of required immunizations by the January 15, 2022, due date will have a registration hold placed on their record and will be dropped from registered classes and excluded from all campus activities until the requirements of this policy are met and clearance is complete. Students living in on-campus housing may have their housing contracts canceled if updated proof of vaccination is not received on time.

Effective October 18, 2021, access to all indoor campus spaces is limited to individuals with proof of full vaccination or an approved exemption.

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.