

IMMUNIZATION POLICY

Lane College requires that all new students (first-time freshmen, transfer, and evening students) submit a Health Evaluation Form upon acceptance to the College. The Form must be submitted to the Student Health Center before enrollment. The Form contains information on personal history, medical history, and the immunization record. New students are also required to submit a recent (within past six months) physical examination report.

On December 9, 2009, the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) made changes to immunization requirements for students entering higher education, effective for students enrolling in Tennessee institutions on or after July 1, 2011.

Who is required to be immunized?

- New **full time** enrollees in higher education institutions (post-secondary) in Tennessee with enrollments larger than 200 students.
- New undergraduates enrolled in at least 12 semester hours, or equivalent
- New graduate students enrolled in at least 9 semester hours, or equivalent
- **Exempt:** full time distance learning students are exempted from immunization requirements

Measles, mumps and rubella immunity:

- Proof of immunity to measles, mumps and rubella may be provided by meeting one of the following 3 criteria:
- Date of birth before 1957, *or*
- Documentation of 2 doses of vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella given at least 28 days apart, excluding doses given earlier than 4 days before the first birthday, *or*
- Documentation of blood test (serology) showing immunity to measles, mumps **and** rubella. If any one of the three is negative, 2 doses of vaccine must be documented.

Varicella (chickenpox) immunity:

- Proof of immunity to varicella (chickenpox) is required by meeting one of the following 4 criteria:
- Date of birth before 1980, *or*
- History of chickenpox illness diagnosed by a healthcare provider or verified by a physician, advanced practice nurse or physician assistant to whom the illness is described, *or*
- Documentation of 2 doses of varicella vaccine given at least 28 days apart, excluding doses given earlier than 4 days before the first birthday, *or*
- Documentation of blood test (serology) showing immunity to varicella.

Infectious Disease Statement

Lane College will establish and operate under guidelines and protocols to reduce the spread of infectious diseases, which may change over time in light of the evolving nature of infectious diseases. These

guidelines and protocols will be communicated to students through other mechanisms and not through the Student Handbook. Students are expected to abide by any and all College guidelines and protocols to reduce the spread of infectious diseases. In some circumstances, these guidelines and protocols may supersede provisions in the Student Handbook.

Valid exemptions to requirements:

- **Medical:** Physician or health department indicates that certain vaccines are medically exempted (because of risk of harm). Any vaccines not exempted remain required.
- **Religious:** Requires a signed statement by the student that vaccination conflicts with his or her religious tenets or practices.

Students who need 2 doses of vaccine, but cannot get both doses before classes start: Such students may enroll with documentation of one dose of each required vaccine. The student must submit proof of complete immunization before the close of the first semester of enrollment. The College may hold semester grades or delay course registration for the next semester until proof of complete immunization is provided.

Location of immunization records: Adults can have difficulty locating childhood immunization records. They should check with family members who may have copies of childhood records. They should try to contact the original immunization provider: if a local health department, contact them directly; if a private medical office, contact that office. Schools may have copies of immunization certificates in student files. Children born after the mid-1990s may have records entered in a state-managed immunization registry; such registries now exist in many states, but are unlikely to contain information on adults. If records cannot be located, vaccination is recommended – additional doses of vaccine are not harmful.

The State of Tennessee requires that all public and private postsecondary institutions provide to all first-time students and/or parents or guardians of all first-time students information concerning Hepatitis B disease and Meningococcal disease. The information must be provided to all first-time students and their parents and/or guardians before matriculation. The student (if age 18) or the parent/guardian (if under age 18) must complete and sign a waiver to indicate that the student and/or the student's parent or guardian has received the information and has chosen to have the student or not to have the student vaccinated.

Hepatitis B is a serious, viral, liver infection; prevalent worldwide that can lead to chronic liver disease. The Hepatitis B virus (HBV) can cause short-term (acute) illness that leads to: loss of appetite; tiredness; pain in muscles, joints, and stomach; diarrhea and vomiting; and jaundice (yellow skin or eyes). Each year, it is estimated that 80,000 people, mostly young adults, get infected with HBV; more than 11,000 people have to stay in the hospital because of Hepatitis B; and 4,000 to 5,000 people die from chronic Hepatitis B. The Hepatitis B vaccine is extremely safe and effective and is recommended for any individual 18 years of age and younger and adults over 18 who are at risk. If you are not immunized against Hepatitis B, we highly recommend you consider getting this vaccine or discuss it with your primary care physician.

Meningococcal Meningitis is a severe form of bacterial meningitis. The American College Health Association (ACHA) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommend that students consider vaccination to reduce their risk for the potentially fatal meningococcal disease. Meningococcal disease is a rare but potentially fatal bacterial infection. The disease is expressed as either meningococcal

meningitis, an inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord or meningococcemia, the presence of bacteria in the blood. It is estimated that 100-125 cases of meningococcal disease occur annually on college campuses across the nation and that 5-15 students die each year as a result. Pre-exposure vaccination enhances immunity to strains of bacteria that cause most cases of meningococcal disease and therefore reduces a student's risk for disease. Development of immunity post-vaccination requires 7-10 days and remains effective for 3-5 years.