



## IMMUNIZATION FAQ'S

### 1. **Where can I locate my record?**

Any prior school you've attended, your pediatrician, physician, health department, or your parent or guardian may have a copy. If you have served in the military, worked in healthcare, or went through immigration, they may have records. Remember to review your records and see that they fulfill the Department of Health and Senior Services' requirements.

### 2. **I can't locate my records/my record is incomplete – what should I do?**

You can revaccinate or take a blood test to prove immunity. If you're non-immune, the state requires that you receive the appropriate vaccine(s).

### 3. **I have a record, but no one is available to complete Kean's immunization form – what should I do?**

Complete the top box of the form and upload that with a copy of your record.

### 4. **Where should I submit my record?**

Once the immunization form is completed, signed and stamped by your healthcare provider, Log in to the [Patient Portal](#) to enter your immunization dates into the Immunization History form and upload your form for verification in DOCUMENT UPLOAD tab.

### 5. **I'm a teacher/have worked in healthcare/served in the military/attended public schools/received immigration papers/etc – wouldn't I have been prevented from doing the aforementioned without these vaccines?**

No (teachers, for example, are required to submit TB); different agencies have different requirements, so what you submitted prior may not match the current higher-education requirement. Regardless, the state still requires submission of the record.

### 6. **I'm off-campus/part-time/only take one class – why does this requirement apply to me?**

Regardless of credit status or location, the requirement is still the law. Health-wise, places of congregation (classrooms) are high-risk areas for spreading infectious diseases, so ensuring immunity is the safest action. The law is for both your protection and for anyone who you encounter.

### 7. **I'm a returning student and I think I've submitted these records in the past – do I need to resubmit them?**

Since the state gives universities permission to destroy records after ten years and since new laws arise, you would need to contact Student Health Services to see what, if any, records are on file. If you receive notifications from Student Health Services, then they are not on file.



## IMMUNIZATION FAQ'S

### 8. I attended Kean in the past – why aren't my records on file?

Your account falls in one of the following categories:

- If you attended classes prior to 1995, the state did not require the submission of immunization records.
- If you attended classes after 1995, you were “grandfathered” into the university’s current database without submitting or resubmitting the records. The Department of Health and Senior Services no longer allows that exemption.
- If you submitted records over 10 years ago, the state grants schools permission to destroy them, so they are no longer on file.
- The hepatitis B law did not come into effect until Fall 2008, so the university does not have any hepatitis B information prior to this date.

### 9. I'm a current student -- do I need to resubmit my records every year?

No, once records are submitted, they are input into the university's database, and stored for 10 years.

### 10. My prior school didn't require these records – why is Kean asking for them?

The state requires that all four-year schools follow these guidelines. If you attended a two-year school, the requirements differ. You may have also attended school prior to the Department of Health and Senior Services' regulation.

### 11. I attended Ocean County College for two years, and now I'm taking Kean Ocean classes in the same location – shouldn't Student Health Services have these records?

No, Ocean County College does not require the records since it is a two-year school. Kean University is a four-year school, so the state requires that you submit them to Health Services.

### 12. Where can I receive the vaccines/blood tests? At Kean University?

- Student Health Services can perform the blood test. Insurance is required to complete testing at our facility. Appointments can be scheduled by calling (908)737-4880; visiting Downs Hall, Rm 126; or logging into the [patient portal](#) and scheduling an appointment under “Labs.”
- These [nearby health care providers](#) have the vaccines and perform the blood tests.
- The Woodbridge Department of Health and Human Services Nursing Division offers discounted vaccines. For prices and appointments, call 732-855-0600 X5011.
- If you are a resident of Union County (excluding Plainfield) and are over 19 years of age, you can receive vaccinations at no cost [HERE](#).
- Please remember to call any provider beforehand to check for vaccination availability and for any price changes. Healthcare providers are posted only as a convenience for students and are not affiliated with Student Health Services.
- If you are a Kean Ocean student, Kean University Health Services has partnered with the Doctor's Office of Brick, located on 686 Route 70 ([732-262-8200](#)). You must first call Health Services (ask to speak to one of the providers) to receive a referral to avoid being charged for



## IMMUNIZATION FAQ'S

your office visit. For your visit, please bring your insurance card; the University does not cover the laboratory results or vaccines.

### **13. Does my insurance cover the vaccines/blood tests?**

Contact your insurance carrier. The insurance company may cover it because it's recommended by the Advisory Committee Immunization Practices (ACIP), but you would still need to verify with your insurance company.

### **14. I don't have insurance/my insurance doesn't cover these requirements/I don't have any money – what can I do?**

You can contact your town's health department to see if they offer the vaccinations for free or at a discounted rate. The Woodbridge Department of Health and Human Services Nursing Division also offers discounted vaccines; for prices and appointments, call 732-855-0600 X5011. For other affordable options, please see question #12. Otherwise you would have to contact a health care provider about payment options.

### **15. My records will take some time to receive – can I have an extension from receiving a hold?**

No, as per state law, schools of higher education cannot permit students to register for their second semester until receiving the compliant record.

### **16. How long does it take for Student Health Services to remove my hold?**

Within five business days based on the volume of records.

### **17. If I have a hold, can Student Health Services remove it so that I can register for my classes, and then either return it or un-register my classes if I don't submit the record?**

No, a hold can only be removed with the compliant record.

### **18. Will a hold drop me from classes that I'm already registered for?**

No, it will only prevent you from registering for the following semester and receiving grades.

### **19. Did Student Health Services receive my record?**

You can verify if Student Health Services received your record through the following ways:  
 If it is after the submission deadline, you can check if you have a hold on your KeanWISE account. If there is a hold, then your record is either not on file or incomplete. All incomplete record submissions receive a secure message on the patient portal. You will receive a message from Student Health Services which will be sent to your KeanGOOGLE account, instructing you to click on the link for the patient portal. After logging in, click on the "Messages" tab on the top left to read a message regarding your immunization records.



## IMMUNIZATION FAQ'S

### 20. I received a letter stating that I need another MMR vaccine or blood-test proving immunity to measles when I've already been vaccinated for one MMR – why?

The state requires two measles vaccines, and your record only has one vaccine. Doctors found that one vaccine wasn't always sufficient to reach immunity, so the State requires a second measles or MMR vaccine (or blood test proving immunity).

### 21. If I've already received these vaccines but take them again, will that hurt me?

No, receiving the vaccine again will only boost your immunity. Also, after time, the effects of the original vaccine diminish, so a booster may be recommended. Please see the "Immunization & Related Diseases Information" section for any concerns.

### 22. I'm uncomfortable with receiving vaccines – are there any risks with taking it?

The risks associated with the MMR vaccine are, according to the CDC, "extremely minimal." Conversely, people face risks by not getting vaccinated; as the CDC notes, "Getting [the] MMR vaccine is much safer than getting any of these three diseases." Please see the "Immunization & Related Diseases Information" for further information.

### 23. Can I be exempt from these requirements?

Yes, the state grants age exemptions for the MMR vaccine to all students born before 1/1/57.

- For [religious exemptions](#), you must write a statement, signed and dated, that the vaccine conflicts with your religious beliefs.
- For [medical exemptions](#), your physician must state that the immunization is medically inadvisable, and he must state why. All students who receive exemptions are required to leave class/campus during the duration of an outbreak and are required to sign a waiver. Also, medically-exempt students must submit yearly updated medical documentation.
- Students who exclusively take online courses may be exempt from submitting vaccinations. In order to process a waiver, the Waiver For Students Taking Online Classes form must be filled out completely and returned to our office for processing before a waiver is granted.

[Waiver For Students Taking Online Classes Form](#)