



## Immunization F.A.Q.'S

*Do you still have questions or concerns? Email Student Health Services at [studenthealthservices@kean.edu](mailto:studenthealthservices@kean.edu) or call (908) 737-4880*

### **COVID-19 F.A.Q.'s**

#### **1. Where can I get vaccinated for COVID-19?**

Vaccinations are widely available in [communities across New Jersey](#) and [throughout the United States](#). The University is coordinating with the County of Union to arrange for vaccination appointments for students and employees, regardless of where they live, at the vaccination site in Downs Hall on the main campus. Appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Register [here](#). For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine requirements, visit the [#VaxUpKean](#) website.

#### **2. Are there exemptions to the COVID-19 vaccine requirement?**

Students are strongly encouraged to receive a COVID-19 vaccine for their own safety and the safety of those around them. All students, including Kean Online students and those requesting exemptions, are required to submit a COVID-19 Vaccine Form available on the Student Health portal. Those requesting exemptions can select from one of the following options:

**Kean Online Waiver:** If you are a Kean Online student, you must select the online waiver option and submit the form to request a waiver. You do not need to submit a vaccination record unless you plan to come to campus for any reason. Your status as a Kean Online student will be verified by the Office of the Registrar.

**Medical Exemption:** Upload a written statement from your healthcare provider\* that details the medical reasons for your exemption based on CDC guidelines. This exemption must be renewed each year. If you tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days, you must submit a positive COVID test result and begin the vaccination series 90 days from the positive test result. You will be required to submit proof of a vaccination at a later date. \*A healthcare provider is a licensed physician of medicine or osteopathy, or an advanced practice nurse in any jurisdiction of the United States.

**Religious Exemption:** Provide a signed statement within the form explaining how the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with your bona fide religious beliefs. A general philosophical or moral objection is **not** sufficient for an exemption on religious grounds. ***As an unvaccinated individual, you may be subject to additional testing, screening requirements or other protocols implemented by the University to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on campus.***



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If you are a minor, a COVID-19 Medical or Religious Exemption or a COVID-19 Kean Online Student Waiver form must be filled out by the parent or legal guardian.

### **3. Are there exemptions to the other vaccination requirements for new students?**

New students should share the Immunization History Form with their healthcare provider to see if prior vaccinations exist and submit any vaccine information that is available. Medical, religious, and Kean Online exemptions for all other immunization requirements are available in the Student Health Portal through the **My Forms** tab, select the **Immunizations History Form**, and choose an exemption or waiver and submit the form.

## **Immunization F.A.Q's Related to All Other Requirements**

### **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 may need to re-vaccinate 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, register for an account on the [Student Health Portal](#), enter your immunization dates into the Immunization History form in the **My Forms** tab, and then upload your form for verification in the **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?**



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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. 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 the protection of 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 re-submit them?**

Since the state gives universities permission to destroy records after 10 years and since new laws arise, you would need to contact Student Health Services to see what, if any, records are on file. Feel free to call (908)737-4880 or email [studenthealthservices@kean.edu](mailto:studenthealthservices@kean.edu)

**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 submit my records every year?**

No, once records are submitted, they are entered 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?**



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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 Student 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 Student Health Portal and scheduling an appointment under "Labs."
- These [nearby health care providers](#) have the vaccines and perform the blood tests. 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.
- 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 Kean Ocean student, Kean University Health Services has partnered with the Doctor's Office of Brick, located on 686 Route 70, Brick, NJ, [732-262-8200](tel:732-262-8200). You must first call Student Health Services (ask to speak to one of the providers) to receive a referral to avoid being charged for 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.



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**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 city or town's health department to see if they offer the vaccinations for free or at a discounted rate. For other affordable options, please see question #12 or contact us for assistance (908) 737-4880.

**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 complete record.

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

Our time frame for hold removal is based on the volume of records. Feel free to call (908)737-4880 or email at [studenthealthservices@kean.edu](mailto:studenthealthservices@kean.edu) to find out how long it will be until a hold is removed.

**17. If I have a hold, can Student Health Services remove it first so that I can register for my classes and then either return or put it back on 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 in 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.
- Once a record is processed you will receive a message from Student Health Services which will be sent to your Kean email account, instructing you to click on the link for the patient portal. After logging in, click on the **Messages** menu on the top left to read a message regarding your immunization records.

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



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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.

### **21. 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](#) section on our website for further information about immunizations and their related diseases.

### **22. Is there an age exemption for the vaccine requirements?**

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