



Seattle Pacific University

Measles Immunity Policy

Prevention of communicable disease is a part of a University wide Exposure Control, Mitigation and Response Plan. Communicable diseases are defined as infectious diseases that are transmissible by direct or indirect contact with an infected individual. University settings are particularly vulnerable to the spread of infectious disease due to the shared living spaces and close proximity of campus community members.

Outbreaks of infectious diseases cause great disruption and emotional and financial burdens for campuses, students, and their families. Immunizations offer safe and effective protection from vaccine-preventable diseases and outbreaks.

Assuring compliance with the certain immunization recommendations is particularly important in preventing disease clusters and outbreaks on campuses.

Measles is a highly contagious virus and it can have serious complications in all age groups.

Consistent with recommendations from the American College Health Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Washington State Department of Health, Seattle Pacific University requires all incoming students born after 12/31/1956 to present official documentation verifying immunity to measles.

Documentation must be signed, stamped or on letterhead from a healthcare provider's office, state immunization data base, or pharmacy and confirm two dates of measles containing vaccine after age 1 or be consistent with current guidelines for vaccine prevention of Measles infection. Alternatively, documentation of laboratory testing verifying immunity to measles is acceptable. Failure to provide this documentation will result in a registration hold.

Medical or Religious exemptions to this requirement can be obtained through Health Services and they must be reviewed and renewed annually and before the start of each fall quarter. Medical Exemptions should be supported with a letter from a licensed healthcare provider. Religious Exemptions should be supported by a letter of religious affiliation. In the event of a vaccine preventable communicable disease case involving an SPU community member or setting, any student without documentation of immunity or with an Exemption on file, may be excluded from campus until the risk of infection is resolved as determined by the local public health authorities. Exclusion includes classrooms and all campus buildings, including residence halls, dining facilities, classrooms, labs, gyms, offices and other SPU facilities. All exclusions are at the expense of the individual. Individuals may choose to be immunized at the time of an outbreak to avoid exclusion if applicable and available and fees may apply.

In the event of a positive case of Measles on campus, all staff and faculty born after 12/31/1956 will be required to show proof of immunity to measles (as above) before returning to campus.