

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT

Maine state law requires that all students provide certification by a doctor, nurse, or other health official of their immunity to rubeola (measles), mumps, rubella ("German measles"), diphtheria, and tetanus.

Evidence of immunity may be demonstrated with either a record of immunization with dates and dosages or a report of laboratory results of tests for immunity.

- MMR (measles/mumps/rubella). Two doses of MMR vaccine, administered after the student's first birthday.
- DT, Td or TDaP (diphtheria/tetanus) within the last 10 years.

As of September 1, 2021, the state of Maine does not allow religious or philosophical exemptions to required immunizations. Students seeking a medical exemption must provide a written statement from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant that, in that provider's professional judgment, immunization against one or more of the diseases may be medically inadvisable. If you have a state-approved medical exemption, and an outbreak of any of these diseases should occur, you would be asked to leave the campus for the duration.

The criteria for medical exemption articulated in the law are as follows:

- Medical exemptions to receiving tetanus-diphtheria toxoid are limited to:
 - having received tetanus toxoid or tetanus-diphtheria toxoid within 5 years of enrollment;
 - a hypersensitivity reaction to a prior dose of tetanus toxoid or tetanus-diphtheria toxoid.
- Medical exemptions to receiving measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR) are limited to:
 - pregnancy, or those students planning to become pregnant within 3 months;
 - a history of anaphylactic reaction following egg ingestion or receipt of neomycin;
 - altered immunocompetence, as occurs with leukemia, lymphoma, generalized malignancy, or therapy with alkylating agents, antimetabolites, radiation, or large doses of corticosteroids.

Students must either provide proof of immunization or of a medical exemption before they will be allowed to attend in-person classes at COA. If already immunized, the student must send or bring a copy of the immunization record signed by the health professionals who either administered the shots or have the records. Shots are available in Bar Harbor at the local health facilities; the COA nurse can also administer the immunizations.