



Policy for Exemption from Immunization

Muhlenberg College students may request an exemption from the College's Prematriculation Immunization Requirements for the following reasons:

A. Medical Exemption

Students need not be immunized if a physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner provides a signed written statement that immunization may be detrimental to the health of the student. Medical reasons for an exemption generally include the following situations: (i) the student has a disease or take medicine that weakens their immune system; (ii) the student has a severe allergy to a vaccine or an ingredient in it; and/or (iii) the student had a prior serious adverse event related to a vaccination.

When the healthcare provider determines that immunization is no longer detrimental to the student's health, the student will be required to be immunized.

B. Religious Exemption

Students need not be immunized if the student (or if the student is less than 18 years old, the student's parent or guardian) objects in writing to the immunization on religious grounds or on the basis of strong moral or ethical convictions similar to religious belief.

Process:

A. Medical Exemptions:

1. The student (or if the student is less than 18 years old, the student's parent or guardian) must complete the Request for Immunization Exemption Form.
2. Student must attach a signed statement from a health care provider (physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner) documenting the student's contraindications or precautions to the vaccine(s), including how the vaccine may be detrimental to the health of the student.
3. Student must submit the signed Request for Immunization Exemption Form and the required health care provider statement to Muhlenberg College Health Services.
4. The Request for Immunization Exemption Form and the accompanying health care provider statement may be disclosed to the Dean of Students and Immunization Exemption Review Committee, as necessary, for the purpose of review of the request and determination of exemption eligibility.

B. Religious Exemptions:

1. The student (or if the student is less than 18 years old, the student's parent or guardian) must complete the Request for Immunization Exemption Form.

2. The student (or if the student is less than 18 years old, the student's parent or guardian) must attach a personal, signed statement describing their adherence to a religious belief whose teachings are opposed to such immunizations or a statement on their strong moral or ethical conviction similar to a religious belief that is opposed to such immunizations.
3. Student must submit the signed Request for Immunization Exemption Form and the required statement to Muhlenberg College Health Services.
4. The Request for Immunization Exemption Form and the accompanying personal statement may be disclosed to the Dean of Students and Immunization Exemption Review Committee, as necessary, for the purpose of review of the request and determination of exemption eligibility.

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