FAQs about required health forms and vaccines

Welcome to Smith! We are excited to meet you.
If these FAQs don’t help you find the answers you need, please call us at 413-585-2250, or email us at healthservices@smith.edu.

1. I am an international student. I can’t get every required vaccine in my home country. What should I do?
   Don’t worry. You can get all required vaccines at local pharmacies in Massachusetts, such as CVS or Walgreens.

2. I can’t get an appointment for a physical in time to meet the deadline. What should I do?
   Don’t worry. We will work with you. Most cities and towns in the US have walk-in urgent care clinics, and large pharmacies, such as CVS and Walgreens have on site clinics that offer physical exams, Tuberculosis Screening and Vaccine administration. Please send us your immunizations and the parts you can complete and ask your regular healthcare provider to send us the rest. Keep copies for yourself! (see #10)

3. I can’t find my immunization records. What should I do?
   Call your most recent school or doctor’s office and ask if they have your immunizations on file. Check with your state, city or town to see if they have an immunization registry. Send copies to us. Keep a copy for yourself! (see #10)

4. I am an international student. I can’t get Tuberculosis Blood Tests (IGRA Tspot or Quantiferon Gold) in my home country. What should I do?
   If you arrive in Massachusetts before college orientation, please be in touch with us. We can arrange for you to have testing performed. OR: We can perform the test here on your first day of orientation.

5. My doctor’s office doesn’t provide Meningitis B vaccine. What should I do?
   Don’t worry. Most large retail pharmacies such as CVS or Walgreens provide vaccines. Sometimes the pharmacist may need to order the vaccine. This vaccine locator tool https://vaccinefinder.org/ can be useful in finding vaccines near you. We suggest you contact the pharmacy with any questions.

6. My insurance company doesn’t cover Meningitis B vaccine. What should I do?
   Please contact your insurance company and ask for an appeal. Explain that there has been an outbreak in Western Massachusetts at Smith College and The University of Massachusetts. Please refer to the welcome letter in your health form packet, call us, or refer to our website https://www.smith.edu/health/ for more information.

7. I won’t finish the entire series of HepatitisB, MMR, MeningitisB, or Varicella vaccines in time for the start of school. What should I do?
   Don’t worry. As long as we have proof that you started the series, we will consider your file temporarily complete and adjust your hold date. For example, if you received a vaccine in June and are due in November for your next dose, we will move your hold date to November. We will remove holds when all aspects of your health forms are complete.

8. Is there a place near campus I can get vaccines, or otherwise complete my forms?
   YES. Northampton has several walk in clinics conveniently located near campus:
   CVS Minute Clinic 366 King Street, Northampton  (413) 586-8315
   Cooley Dickinson Urgent Care Clinic 30 Locust Street, Northampton  (413)-582-2330
   ONCall Urgent Care Clinic 6 Hatfield Street, Northampton (413-584-7425

9. Can I waive vaccines?
   In order to best protect your health and the health of our campus and greater community, we do recommend that all students meet Massachusetts Law and Smith College requirements. Please contact us to discuss waivers.

10. Do I need a TB test? Only If you answer YES to the screening questions. Your doctor MUST sign the form.

11. How should I send you records from my doctor’s office or send you my health forms?
   Mail is the best way to send your health forms in order to best protect your privacy.
   You can also fax your forms to us at 413-585-4639.
   Email (not recommended except for immunization records) healthservices@smith.edu