

Immunization Requirements for FBBC&TS

Purpose

Faith Baptist Bible College & Theological Seminary (FBBC&TS) establishes this policy to comply with applicable Iowa state law and accreditation expectations regarding student health and safety. The purpose of this policy is to document institutional requirements for immunization, ensure informed consent where vaccination is not required, and outline procedures for compliance and approved exemptions.

Scope

This policy applies to all students enrolling in on-campus instructional activities at Faith Baptist Bible College & Theological Seminary.

Immunization Requirements

FBBC&TS requires proof of immunizations on file with Health Services **prior to the start of fall classes**. Students are responsible for reviewing the required immunizations carefully and ensuring that all required documentation is submitted, reviewed, and approved before arrival on campus.

Students must have all required immunizations completed—or an approved medical or religious exemption on file—before participation in on-campus classes, residence life, or other institutionally sponsored activities is permitted.

Required Immunizations

Students must provide documentation for **all of the following required immunizations**:

- **Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTP/DTaP/Td):** Completion of the childhood series (5 doses)
- **Tdap or Tetanus Booster:** One booster dose within the past 10 years
- **Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR):** Two doses of live vaccine administered after 12 months of age for students born after 1957
- **Polio:** Completion of the childhood series (4–5 doses)
- **Tuberculosis (TB) Test:** One TB test completed within the past year

Documentation must include the student's name, the name of the immunization or test, and the date(s) administered (month/day/year). Official medical records or immunization forms signed by a licensed healthcare provider are required.

Submission of Records

Immunization records must be submitted to Health Services by the deadline published by the institution prior to the start of the fall semester. Records must be submitted through the method designated by Health Services.

Documentation must be legible, complete, and include the student's full name and the month/day/year each immunization or test was administered. Incomplete or noncompliant documentation will delay clearance.

Failure to submit required documentation by the published deadline may result in delayed registration, restricted access to campus facilities, or ineligibility for on-campus housing until compliance is achieved.

Exemptions

FBBC&TS permits immunization exemptions in accordance with Iowa law.

See <https://hhs.iowa.gov/health-prevention/vaccines-immunizations> for more information.

Medical Exemption

A medical exemption may be granted when a licensed healthcare provider certifies that a required immunization is medically contraindicated. Documentation must:

- Be completed on an approved state immunization exemption form
- Be signed by a licensed medical professional
- Specify whether the exemption is temporary or permanent

Religious Exemption

A religious exemption may be granted when immunization conflicts with a sincerely held religious belief. Students must submit a completed state-approved religious exemption form. Notarization is not required by FBBC&TS, regardless of form format.

Conditions of Exemption

Students with approved exemptions acknowledge that they may be subject to additional public health measures, including temporary exclusion from campus or campus housing during an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, as determined by Health Services and consistent with public health guidance.

Recordkeeping and Confidentiality

Health Services maintains immunization and exemption records in accordance with applicable federal and state privacy laws. Records are retained as part of the student's institutional health file and are subject to audit for compliance purposes.

Meningitis Notification and Vaccine Information

While Faith Baptist Bible College & Theological Seminary (FBBC&TS) has had no reported cases of meningitis, the State of Iowa requires institutions to provide students with information regarding meningococcal disease and vaccination.

Meningitis—Know Your Risk & Learn About Vaccination

Meningococcal disease is a rare but potentially fatal bacterial infection that can cause swelling of the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord, as well as severe and permanent disabilities, including hearing loss, brain damage, seizures, limb amputation, or death.

Transmission: The disease is spread through respiratory secretions or close personal contact, including coughing, sneezing, kissing, or sharing items such as eating utensils or drinking glasses.

Symptoms: Symptoms often resemble the flu and may include high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, rash, nausea, vomiting, lethargy, and confusion.

Risk Factors: Certain college students—particularly freshmen living in dormitories or residence halls—have an increased risk of meningococcal disease. Other undergraduate students may also consider vaccination to reduce their risk.

Prevention: A safe and effective vaccine is available that protects against four of the five most common strains of meningococcal disease. Protection typically lasts three to five years. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC) recommend meningococcal vaccination for college students, particularly those living in campus housing.

Meningitis Vaccination Acknowledgement

Iowa state law requires FBBC&TS to inform students of the risks associated with meningococcal disease and the benefits of vaccination. Students must acknowledge that they have received and reviewed this information and indicate one of the following:

- I have received or am planning to receive the meningococcal vaccination (booster recommended if the previous dose was given at age 16 or younger).
- I choose not to receive the meningococcal vaccination at this time.

For additional information, students may contact Kim Nihart, RN, in Health Services at nihartk@faith.edu, their personal healthcare provider, or consult resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American College Health Association (ACHA).

Immunizations Strongly Encouraged

While not required, the following immunizations are strongly encouraged for the health and safety of the campus community:

- Meningococcal (Meningitis)
- Hepatitis B: 3-dose series
- Hepatitis A: 2-dose series
- Varicella (Chickenpox): 2 doses or documented history of the disease
- Influenza
- Pneumococcal

Compliance

Health Services will maintain immunization and exemption records in accordance with applicable privacy laws. Students are responsible for ensuring their records remain current while enrolled. Health Services will maintain immunization and exemption records in accordance with applicable privacy laws. Students are responsible for ensuring their records remain current while enrolled.

Oversight and Questions

Questions regarding immunization requirements, documentation, or exemption requests should be directed to Faith Baptist Bible College Health Services.