



Frequently Asked Questions Health Services

Adult & Graduate Studies

** This FAQ is an informal guide to questions posed by students and is not a replacement for the Student Handbook, which should be consulted for all college policies.*

HEALTH

Can I obtain health insurance through a student plan at the college?

Yes. Contact the Assistant Bursar, Mike Brazer, to learn more.

What are the immunization requirements for ENC?

All full time undergraduates and graduates are required to provide proof of the following Immunizations:

- **MMR** – 2 MMR vaccines or blood work to prove immunity (titer) or born in the US before 1957
- **Tdap** – Tdap vaccine unless Tetanus vaccine was within past 5 years
- **Hepatitis B** – 3 Hepatitis B vaccines or blood work to prove immunity (titer)
- **Varicella** – 2 Varicella vaccines or blood work to prove immunity (titer) or reliable history of chickenpox disease-verified and signed by a doctor, NP or PA or born in US before 1980

I only attend class one or two nights a week. Am I full time?

Most adult studies students are considered full time. If you are full time for financial aid, you are considered full time for health requirements.

Why does ENC require adult studies students to get immunizations?

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires these immunizations for all college students, including adult studies, undergraduate and graduate students. ENC requires only what the state of Massachusetts requires.

If I am not taking classes on main campus, do I still need to meet the immunization requirements?

Yes, Massachusetts law requires all students to comply with these requirements no matter where they are taking classes.

Where do I send my immunization records?

You can mail them to ENC Health Services, Attention: Patsy Malas, 23 E. Elm Avenue, Quincy, MA, 02170 OR Fax to her at 617-745-3928.

I need 3 Hepatitis B vaccines, but I have to wait to get them all. Will I still get the late fee?

If you have all the rest of your immunization requirements done, you will be cleared when you turn in the documentation of your first Hepatitis B vaccine until it is time for the second Hepatitis B vaccine. Then when you turn in documentation of the second Hepatitis B vaccine, you will be cleared until time for the third Hepatitis B vaccine. So as long as you have everything else done and you keep up with your Hepatitis B vaccines, you will not get the late fee.

Can I turn in the record of the vaccines I have had and be cleared?

No, you must provide proof of immunity for ALL the state required immunizations.

It has been a really long time since I had my vaccines and I have no way to get the records from the doctor who gave them to me. What do I do?

You can have blood drawn (a titer) to prove you are immune to MMR (measles, mumps and rubella), Hepatitis B, and Varicella. The Tdap or tetanus must be done within the past 5 years, so you should be able to find record of that.

My doctor's office said they will send the records to you. Do I need to do anything else?

We highly recommend that you follow up with the doctor's office and make sure that it actually was sent.

If I have had the proper vaccines to be a day care provider, do I need any other vaccines?

You should at least have a start on documentation of your immunizations. But you need to provide ALL of the state required immunizations listed above. Most Child Care Centers do not currently require all of same immunizations as the state requires for college students.

I heard that I don't need the vaccines because I don't live on campus. Is this true?

The only immunization that is required for residential students only is the Meningitis vaccine. However, this is not required for adult studies students. So you must get ALL the required immunizations.

What is the Tdap vaccine and why is it now required for adults?

The recommendations used to be that adults should get a tetanus shot (Td) every 10 years. The latest guidelines from the CDC are now that all adults up to age 65 get one dose of the Tdap vaccine (and also those 65 and over if they will be around babies 12 months and younger). Massachusetts has added this to

the requirement for college entrance in order to encourage more adults to get it.

The REQUIREMENT is a Tdap unless you have had a tetanus (Td) in the past 5 years.

However it is RECOMMENDED that everyone get the Tdap and it doesn't matter how long it has been since you have had the tetanus shot.

The Tdap vaccine is a tetanus vaccine with the whooping cough included. Whooping cough (pertussis) is a very contagious respiratory disease that was greatly reduced in the US after children started being vaccinated against it. However, it is coming back and there are more and more cases of it. So it is now recommended that all adults get a booster. The idea is to get as many adults immunized as possible in order to help protect the babies. It can be very serious if babies get the whooping cough. Infants can't get their first vaccine against the whooping cough until they are 2 months and then they need 5 vaccines for it by the time they are 15 months. So they are not well protected against it during their first year, if at all. Whooping cough can be a very serious illness for babies.

The idea is to keep the germs from spreading to more and more people. If a person with whooping cough spends time with 10 people and none of them are vaccinated, then there is a good chance the germs will spread and keep growing and multiplying in several new people. Then they will go and spread it to other people. This cycle keeps going and the disease spreads. If a person with whooping cough spends time with 10 people that have all been vaccinated, then the germs can't grow and multiply in new people. So the germs from that person all die and it stops multiplying. That part of the cycle has now been stopped. Even if only 8 of the 10 people have been vaccinated, it reduces the chance that the germs will find the right person that it can grow in and keep the cycle going.

Therefore, we encourage everyone to get a Tdap vaccine if they haven't had one already. If you are interested in knowing more about the Tdap vaccine, check out the CDC recommendations at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pertussis/recs-summary.htm>

Are Tdap and Dtap the same thing?

No, the Dtap is the vaccine given to young children. The Tdap is the adult booster vaccine.