

IMPORTANT!

IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION FOR ALL FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Many extremely valuable vaccines are available to help prevent certain diseases. Preventing any of the following diseases is highly desirable and is best accomplished with vaccinations. Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), hepatitis B and meningococcal meningitis vaccines are available to prospective students, prior to registration, at Student Health Services (SHS). Titers providing serologic evidence of immunity are also available for measles, mumps, rubella and hepatitis B. Charges for immunizations or titers are billed to the student.

Call Student Health Services with any questions or to schedule an appointment for immunizations:

**FGCU Student Health Services
Immunization Department
(239) 590-1254**

Meningococcal meningitis is a rare bacterial infection of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord. It can cause severe neurological damage, loss of limbs, or death. The vaccine Menactra protects 90% of its recipients against four of the five serotypes of bacteria which cause this form of meningitis. Protection is believed to last for a minimum of eight years. People with a history of latex allergy, Guillain-Barré syndrome, or previous serious allergic reaction to Menactra should not receive the vaccine. Pregnant women must consult with their physicians prior to receiving Menactra.

Hepatitis B is a serious viral liver disease that can lead to chronic liver disease, liver cancer, or rarely, death. Hepatitis B vaccine is believed to confer life-long immunity in most cases. People with a history of life-threatening reaction to baker's yeast or to a previous dose of hepatitis B vaccine should not receive the vaccine. Pregnant women may be vaccinated.

Measles is a highly contagious viral infection that can cause ear infection, pneumonia, seizures, brain damage or even death. Pregnant women and people who have ever had a life-threatening reaction to gelatin, neomycin or a previous dose of MMR vaccine should not receive the MMR vaccine.

Rubella is a contagious viral infection that causes a rash, mild fever and stiff joints in adults. A pregnant woman who contracts rubella could have a miscarriage or her baby could be born with serious birth defects. Two doses of MMR vaccine can provide long-term, effective protection against these diseases. Anyone who has one of the following should consult with a physician prior to receiving the MMR vaccine: HIV/AIDS or other diseases of the immune system; cancer or is receiving cancer treatment; blood disorders or recent receipt of blood transfusions or blood products. Pregnant women and people who have ever had a life-threatening reaction to gelatin, neomycin or a previous dose of MMR vaccine should not receive the MMR vaccine.

Completed Immunization History forms may be **mailed**, **faxed**, **e-mailed**, or **dropped off** to the Student Health Services Immunization Department upon completion. Original copies of certificates and/or immunization books do not have to be turned in; in this case, photocopies of original documents are acceptable.

