



# AAMC Standardized Immunization Form

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the AAMC Standardized Immunization Form?

The AAMC Standardized Immunization Form was developed by a working group that included member school representatives, registrars, public health experts and student health services representatives, to facilitate the recording and documentation of an applicant's relevant vaccine history and TB status in a standardized format. The AAMC Standardized Immunization Form is a medical record protected by HIPAA regulations; all staff processing and reviewing such forms should be aware of and take care to follow HIPAA guidelines to ensure that the applicant's information is kept confidential and not disclosed or reported without the applicant's express written consent to any person within or outside of the workplace, except as established by the participating institution's policies and procedures, or as may be required by law.

### 2. Why are there special vaccine recommendations for healthcare personnel?

Recommendations for immunizations and health screenings that specifically target healthcare personnel (HCP) are essential components of infection control programs established to help prevent the spread of communicable diseases in all settings where healthcare is delivered. The goal is twofold: to protect vulnerable patients from infectious diseases transmitted by HCP, and to protect HCP from diseases spread by infected patients and other HCP. Medical students and trainees are considered HCP in healthcare settings.

For information on the CDC's recommended vaccines for healthcare workers, see the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/hcw.html>.

### 3. Who makes the vaccine recommendations for healthcare personnel?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that HCP receive vaccination or have demonstration of immunity for the following vaccine-preventable diseases:

- Hepatitis B
- Flu (Influenza)
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, & Rubella)
- Varicella (Chickenpox)
- Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis)
- Meningococcal disease, depending on state and locale



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### **4. What are the current CDC recommendations on COVID-19 vaccination status?**

COVID-19 vaccine was added to the United States 2023 Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule for ages 19 years or older by the CDC ACIP and collaborating healthcare professional societies.

Primary COVID-19 immunization consists of two doses of MONOVALENT VACCINE and one booster dose of BIVALENT VACCINE administered at recommended vaccine-specific intervals for most people.

Healthcare Personnel may be asked to show official documentation of COVID-19 vaccination by certain healthcare facilities including hospitals and clinics according to local conditions and state health department mandates or may seek individual exemption.

For information on COVID-19 vaccine, see [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/COVID-19](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/COVID-19).

### **5. Why do the CDC-ACIP vaccine recommendations become institutional requirements?**

The CDC-ACIP vaccine recommendations define a national standard, but implementation of HCP immunization programs is driven by requirements of federal, state, and/or local governing bodies for licensure and operation of healthcare facilities, by payors (e.g. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services), and by standards of accreditation agencies (e.g. The Joint Commission, Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Healthcare). The Occupational Safety and Health Administration sets standards for HCP occupational health practices and records: “The employer shall establish and maintain an accurate record for each employee with occupational exposure. The record shall include a copy of the employee's hepatitis B vaccination status including the dates of all the hepatitis B vaccinations and any medical records relative to the employee’s ability to receive vaccination.”

### **6. What about hepatitis C and HIV infection control?**

Besides hepatitis B, the CDC has recommendations for HCP regarding infection control measures for other bloodborne pathogens such as hepatitis C and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). At this time, there is no consensus among healthcare organizations on how to frame requirements for individual HCP documentation of infection and immunity with regard to these pathogens for infection control and occupational health programs. Students and trainees may be asked by certain programs and institutions to disclose their status with regard to these pathogens. However, any release of personal health information should



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follow HIPAA guidelines. A student or trainee may in turn request an accommodation from a particular program in cases where they cannot meet vaccine or TB screen requirements.

### **7. Should students or student health offices complete the form?**

Students should complete the AAMC Standardized Immunization Form in conjunction with either the student health office at their medical school or with their primary care provider. The form requires the verification of a healthcare provider (other than the student) regarding the accuracy of the information contained in the form.

### **8. Once the form is completed, how do students submit it?**

If the Host institution participates in VSLO, students may upload the completed, verified form in the VSLO application service. If the Host institution does not participate in VSLO, students should send the complete, verified form per the Host institution's application instructions.

### **9. How can students submit additional documentation such as labs or medical records with the AAMC Standardized Immunization Form?**

If the Host institution participates in VSLO, students may scan additional documents (including labs, titer results, and other medical records associated with the immunizations) along with the form and upload it in the VSLO application service. If the Host institution does not participate in VSLO, students should send additional documents with the form per the Host institution's application instructions.

### **10. Can a Host institution require information beyond what the AAMC Standardized Immunization Form collects?**

Yes. Some Host institutions require documentation of additional vaccinations that are not among those recommended by the CDC and not included on the AAMC Standardized Immunization Form. These institutions generally identify those additional requirements in their visiting student application instructions and often provide their own form to indicate proof of immunization. The best source of information is the institution's "Institution Summary" page in the VSLO application service or the institution's website.

### **11. Can I submit a state immunization form in lieu of the AAMC Standardized Immunization Form?**

No. State immunization forms can be submitted as supporting documentation along with the AAMC Standardized Immunization Form, but they cannot replace the form itself.



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### **12. Where can I find a list of Host institutions that accept the AAMC Standardized Immunization Form?**

A list of Host institutions that accept the AAMC Standardized Immunization Form can be viewed here: [www.aamc.org/immunizationform](http://www.aamc.org/immunizationform).

### **13. Can I use this form outside of VSLO?**

Yes! The AAMC intends for this form to be available to and used by member institutions and students whether they participate in VSLO or not. Our belief is that the widespread use of this form will save time and effort for everyone involved in the clinical education of medical students.

### **14. How can students update their submitted form?**

Generally, if a student has previously submitted an AAMC Standardized Immunization Form, and then updates their vaccinations, the student should complete a new form to replace the outdated one.