**Glossary**

**Acceptable Proof of Immunity** See [Section I](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_1_requirements.htm) of Immunization Handbook for New York State Post-secondary Institutions [1].

**Antibodies** are protective substances made by your body's immune system's B cells in response to germs and killed/disabled antigens in vaccines. Once activated, B cells can produce protective antibodies to fight the actual disease whenever your body comes in contact with it [4].

**Antigen** This is a substance that when introduced into the body stimulates a protective immune response [1]. An antigen is the part of a germ (bacteria or virus) that the body's immune system can recognize and attack to prevent the germ from causing disease. In vaccines, the antigen is killed/disabled so it does not cause the disease; it does however prompt the immune system to produce protective antibodies that will protect you from the disease when you come in contact with it [4].

**Attendance** See [Section I](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_1_requirements.htm) of Immunization Handbook for New York State Post-secondary Institutions [1].

**B-cells** are specialized immune system cells that respond to germs and killed/disabled antigens in vaccines. Once activated B cells can produce protective antibodies whenever needed. These B cells give your body "memory" of the specific germ or antigen that allows your body to recognize and fight the actual disease [4].

**Certificate of Immunization** The certificate of immunization shall be prepared by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner, and shall specify the vaccines and gives the dates of administration. It may also show physician-verified history of disease, laboratory evidence of immunity or medical exemption [2].

This includes documents such as a certificate from a physician, a copy of the immunization portion of the cumulative health record from a prior school, a migrant health record, a union health record, a community health plan record, a signed immunization transfer card, a military dependent's "shot" record, the immunization portion of a passport, an immunization record card signed by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner, or an immunization registry record [2].

**Contraindication** This refers to any medical condition or circumstance involving an individual's health history or current health status, which would make it inadvisable for an individual to be immunized with any of the available preparations of a vaccine. (See [Section III](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2011b.pdf) and Appendices [G](http://www.immunize.org/vis/mmr03.pdf) and [H](http://www.immunize.org/vis/menin06.pdf) of Immunization Handbook for New York State Post-secondary Institutions) [1].

**DTaP or DTP (also DPT)** This is a vaccine that combines diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine. DTaP or DTP can be administered up to the seventh birthday [1].

**DT (Pediatric)**

This is a preparation of tetanus and diphtheria toxoids recommended for children under seven years of age who have a medical contraindication to the pertussis component of DTP. This vaccine is NOT required of post-secondary students but may be noted on submitted health records [1].

**EIPV** This refers to enhanced-potency inactivated polio vaccine. This is the intramuscular injectable polio vaccine currently in use and has been available since March 1988. It replaces the IPV or Inactivated Polio Vaccine also known as Salk vaccine. This vaccine is NOT required of post-secondary students but may be noted on submitted health records [1].

**Exclusion** This is the process whereby noncompliant students are not permitted continued attendance at the institution; whereas, "attendance" means the student's physical presence on campus (i.e., exclusion from classes, dorm residence and other curricular and extra-curricular campus activities). Exclusion should begin immediately after a 30 day grace period as stipulated under PHL Section 2165 (measles, mumps and rubella requirements), or after 45 days if a student is from out of state or from another country and can show a good faith effort to comply, or when a disease outbreak occurs [2].

For institutions to be in compliance with PHL Section 2167 (meningococcal meningitis response form), exclusion of students should begin immediately after the 30-day grace period elapses. The 30-day grace period may be extended to 60 days if a student can show a good faith effort to comply with PHL Section 2167. If a student is granted the extended grace period, then exclusion begins immediately after the 60 days elapse [2].

**Exempt/Exemptions** See [Section I](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_1_requirements.htm#exemptions) of Immunization Handbook for New York State Post-secondary Institutions [1].

**Full-time Student** See [Section I](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_1_requirements.htm#student) of Immunization Handbook for New York State Post-secondary Institutions [1].

**German Measles** See definition for [Rubella and Appendix D](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_9_appendices/appendix_d_rubella.htm) of Immunization Handbook for New York State Post-secondary Institutions [1].

**Hib**, or **Haemophilus influenzae** type b is a bacterium responsible for severe infections of the blood stream, lungs (pneumonia), brain and spinal cord (meningitis). It also causes dangerous swelling in body tissues such as the epiglottis in your throat. This alone can cause death by asphyxiation. Hib infections are not only fatal; they can leave victims with permanent brain damage. Hib disease was virtually eliminated until people stopped getting vaccinated for it [4].

**Human Papilloma virus (HPV)** HPV vaccines, depending on the type administered, have the ability to prevent cervical cancer and/or genital warts. HPV vaccine is NOT required for post-secondary students but is recommended (see recommendations below) [1].

* **GARDASIL** is licensed for administration to females and males 9 to 26 years of age; the recommended time for administration is 11 to 12 years of age. Girls/young women and boys/young men ages 13 through 26 should get HPV vaccine if they have not received any or all doses when they were younger [1].
* **CERVARIX** is licensed for administration to females 10 to 25 years of age; the recommended time for administration is 11 to 12 years of age. Girls and young women ages 13 through 26 should get HPV vaccine if they have not received any or all doses when they were younger [1].

**Immunization Survey**

This refers to the annual immunization assessment questionnaire for post-secondary institutions developed by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and mandated by [PHL Section 2165](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_9_appendices/appendix_a/public_health_law/article_21/title_6/section_2165.htm) see section IX of Immunization Handbook for New York State Post-secondary Institutions [1].

**Immunizing Agents** This means the vaccines administered for the purpose of protecting an individual against disease [1].

**Inadequately Immunized Student** This means any student who has not completed the number of doses of measles, mumps and rubella vaccines currently required or who has not produced other acceptable evidence of immunity to measles, mumps or rubella [1].

**In the Process of Receiving Immunization** This term may be applied to any student who has received at least one dose of each antigen and has an appropriately spaced appointment(s) to receive the remainder [1].

([Section I](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_1_requirements.htm) of Immunization Handbook for New York State Post-secondary Institutions-

A student is considered **in process** and allowed to attend classes if he/she has presented a Certificate of Immunization that shows the student is in the process of completing the immunization requirements of PHL Section 2165 [2].

To be "**in process**" the student must have received at least one dose of live measles virus vaccine, have complied with the requirements for mumps and rubella, and have an appointment to return to a health practitioner for the second dose of measles if this appointment is scheduled no more than 90 days since administration of the first dose of measles virus vaccine [2].  
  
A student can be considered **in process** of complying with PHL Section 2167 regarding meningococcal disease until the maximum 30 day grace period has elapsed. The 30-day grace period may be extended to 60 days if a student can show a good faith effort to comply with PHL Section 2167. If a student is granted the extended grace period, then exclusion begins immediately after the 60 days elapses [2]).

**IPV** This refers to Inactivated Polio Vaccine or the intramuscular injectable killed polio vaccine and is also known as Salk vaccine (See also definition for EIPV) [1].

**MMR vaccine** is an immunization to protect an individual from contracting measles, mumps and rubella (also known as German measles). In 2010 the England's General Medical Council declared that there is no link between the MMR vaccine and autism. They also concluded that the author of the study purporting a link between vaccines and autism committed deliberate fraud [4].

**MR (no longer available)** This is a vaccine that combines measles and rubella antigens [1].

**Measles** This disease is also known as rubeola, 10-day measles, red measles or hard measles, it is one of the most communicable of all diseases. (See [Appendix D](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_9_appendices/appendix_d_measles.htm) of Immunization Handbook for New York State Post-secondary Institutions) [1].

**Medical Exemption**

See [Section I](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_1_requirements.htm#exemptions) of Immunization Handbook for New York State Post-secondary Institutions [1].

**Memory cells** are the antibody-forming "B cells" in the immune system that help your body recognize and fight disease if your body comes into contact with it. Memory cells are activated by an invading germ or vaccine and once activated, they remain in your body for life - hence the term, "memory cell" [4].

**Meningococcal Meningitis** This is a severe bacterial infection of the bloodstream or meninges which is the thin lining covering the brain and spinal cord (See [Appendix D](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_9_appendices/appendix_d_meningococcal.htm) of Immunization Handbook for New York State Post-secondary Institutions) [1].

**Meningitis Law**

This refers to [PHL Section 2167](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_9_appendices/appendix_a/public_health_law/article_21/title_6/section_2167.htm) which requires post-secondary institutions to distribute information about meningococcal disease and vaccination to all students enrolled for at least 6 semester hours or the equivalent per semester, or at least 4 semester hours per quarter and obtain meningococcal meningitis response form. (See [Section I](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_1_requirements.htm) and [Appendix D](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_9_appendices/appendix_d_meningococcal.htm) of Immunization Handbook for New York State Post-secondary Institutions) [1].

**Meningococcal Meningitis Vaccination Response Form** This refers to an approved NYSDOH form required by [PHL Section 2167](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_9_appendices/appendix_a/public_health_law/article_21/title_6/section_2167.htm) for college students. (See sample form at [Appendix E](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_9_appendices/appendix_e_response_form.htm) of Immunization Handbook for New York State Post-secondary Institutions) [1].

**Minimum Interval** Clarification of the minimum time interval between two doses of vaccine as stated by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) as one month or as four (4) weeks: There is no immunologic response difference between one month, four (4) weeks, and 28 days. Therefore, a minimum of 28 days between any two doses of vaccine is acceptable. Revaccination of a child should occur only in the case of the minimum interval being less than 28 days [3].

**Minor**

This refers to a student who has not yet reached the age of 18 and who is not an emancipated minor [1].

**Mumps**

This is an acute, viral illness characterized by fever, and swelling and tenderness of one or more salivary glands. (See [Appendix D](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_9_appendices/appendix_d_mumps.htm) of Immunization Handbook for New York State Post-secondary Institutions) [1].

**OPV** Oral Polio Vaccine, which is sometimes called Sabin vaccine, is NOT required for post-secondary students, but it may be noted on submitted health records [1].

**Part-time Student**

See [Section I](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_1_requirements.htm#student) of Immunization Handbook for New York State Post-secondary Institutions [1].

**Pertussis** also known as whooping cough, pertussis is a serious and potentially fatal infection that has begun to increase among individuals who are not vaccinated against it. Pertussis can lead to very long hospitalizations and is particularly dangerous for infants [4].

**Physician's Diagnosis** This is a statement from the diagnosing physician, physician assistant or certified nurse practitioner that a student has had a particular disease [1].

**Prior School** This refers to a previously attended post-secondary institution or secondary school [1].

**Proof of Compliance** This means acceptable proof that the student has received required immunizations, has provided other acceptable proof of immunity (i.e., serology, physician's diagnosis of disease) or is exempt for medical or religious reasons [1].

**Recommended Immunizations** These are immunizations that are not required by PHL Section 2165 but are recommended for maximum protection against disease. Travel, occupation, age, and health status are variables that should be considered for recommended immunizations. Contact your local health department for additional information [1].

**Religious Exemption** This is an exemption that applies to a person (or if the student is a minor, the parent(s) or guardian) who holds genuine and sincere religious beliefs which are contrary to the practice of immunization. (See [Section I](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_1_requirements.htm#exemptions) of Immunization Handbook for New York State Post-secondary Institutions) [1].

**Rubella** This is also known as German Measles or the three-day measles. Generally a mild illness, rubella can cause severe abnormalities in a developing fetus (See [Appendix D](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_9_appendices/appendix_d_rubella.htm) of Immunization Handbook for New York State Post-secondary Institutions) [1].

**Rubeola** See definition for [Measles and Appendix D](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_9_appendices/appendix_d_measles.htm) of Immunization Handbook for New York State Post-secondary Institutions [1].

**Serological Proof of Immunity**

This refers to results of a blood test that indicates the presence of antibodies against a disease. Positive serological test results are acceptable proof of immunity for measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, hepatitis B and polio. For polio serological test results to be acceptable, all three serotypes need to be positive (See Section I of Immunization Handbook for New York State Post-secondary Institutions) [1].

**Student** This means a student as defined by PHL Section 2165 (1)(b). (See [Section I](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_1_requirements.htm) and Appendix A of Immunization Handbook for New York State Post-secondary Institutions) [1].

**Susceptible** This refers to any person who is not adequately immunized against or has no history of a particular disease and is, therefore, likely to contract the disease(s) in the event of exposure [1].

**Td** This is a vaccine that combines tetanus and diphtheria toxoids and is administered to people aged seven and older. It should be repeated every 10 years. (This vaccine is NOT required for college attendance by PHL Section 2165, but it is recommended and may be noted on submitted health records) [1].

**Tdap (ADACEL or BOOSTRIX)** This is an adult tetanus and diphtheria containing toxoid vaccine combined with acellular pertussis vaccine approved in 2005. (This vaccine is NOT required for college attendance by PHL Section 2165 but is recommended and may be noted in submitted health records) [1].

**Thimerosal,** also called ethylmercury, is an organic form of mercury that prevents bacteria from contaminating vaccines. This form of mercury is different from methylmercury (found in fish for example) which can damage the nervous system. Thimerosal has been used in vaccines for years with no evidence of harm. Even so, all pediatric vaccines, including the flu vaccine, are available in a thimerosal-free form [4].

**Transfer Immunization Record** This is a record of vaccination dates, disease history or serology submitted from a student's previous school. The original source of information must have been from the health practitioner administering the vaccine, diagnosing the disease or ordering (or performing) the blood test (See [Appendix J](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_9_appendices/appendix_j_immunization_transfer_record.htm) of Immunization Handbook for New York State Post-secondary Institutions) [1].

**Unimmunized Student**

Refers to any student who has not received one or more of the required vaccines [1].

References-

1. New York State Department of Health, 2012. Section VIII – Handbook Glossary and cross-references of Immunization Handbook for New York State Post-secondary Institutions. Retrieved from <https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_8_glossary.htm>. Accessed on August 1st 2019.
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3. New York State Department of Health, 2012. Appendix B - New York State Department of Health Immunization Policy on Minimum Intervals of Handbook for New York State Post-Secondary Institutions. Retrieved from <https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/handbook/section_9_appendices/appendix_b_minimum_interval.htm>. Accessed on August 1st 2019.
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