

Welcome to Santa Clara University! To keep our campus community as safe and healthy as possible, we have immunization requirements. If you still have a question that was not answered here, please email cowellcenter@scu.edu.

General Questions

How do I upload my immunization records?

Log into your [Cowell Portal](#). Click “Medical Clearances”, and use the green update button to upload documents under “Immunization Records.”

Do I also have to input the dates and information for each vaccine listed under Medical Clearances?

Yes, you need to input this information as it corresponds to your record. Otherwise, it will not populate in your chart and the doses won't be verified. We understand there are a few options to choose from and your record may not be as detailed. Please input them to the best of your ability and email with any specific questions.

What records do you accept?

We do not have a specific form to complete or format required. However, records must have the following: first and last name, date of birth, vaccine name, vaccine administration date (month/day/year), and a stamp/signature/heading from the medical provider or facility. Records must also be in English. If your records are not in English, please have them translated through an official translation service.

My Immunization Records say Not Satisfied. What does this mean?

Students will see a not satisfied and/or an awaiting review status until their records are reviewed by our off-site immunization verification specialists. It can take up to 10 business days for records to be reviewed, so please upload by the deadline. If you upload additional records, the Immunization Records status will revert back to Not Satisfied while they await review.

I recently got another vaccine that was missing, but the status hasn't changed.

Please ensure you uploaded the documentation of the most recent vaccine. If you only input the date, it won't be verified without proof.

What are antibody titer tests?

Antibody titer tests are blood tests used to determine immunity levels. These are a great option for students who may be unable to locate their vaccine records. Titer tests are only accepted for MMR, Varicella, and Hepatitis B.

What results do you accept for antibody titer tests?

Results must be positive or reactive. Negative or non-reactive results mean not enough antibodies are present to be considered immune, and vaccination would be necessary. Lab reports must include your full name and date of birth as well as information identifying the rendering laboratory, collection date, and reference ranges.

Where can I get an antibody titer test?

This service is available at the Cowell Center by appointment only. It can also be done through one's primary care physician.

Where can I get any missing vaccines?

The Cowell Center has a limited stock of vaccines, so we typically refer students to Walgreens Pharmacy or CVS Minute Clinic.

I am having trouble locating my immunization records. How can I find them? (U.S. students)

Please visit the [CDC advice page](#) on locating vaccination records.

Immunization Verification Specialist Questions

Who are the Immunization Verification Specialists (IVS)?

The IVS are an off-site contracted team responsible for reviewing students' immunization records. We contract with them through our Electronic Medical Record system software. They are a team of approximately 8-10 individuals.

How do the IVS communicate with students?

IVS send messages to students through their [Cowell Portal](#). You can view these by logging into the Portal and clicking on "Messages." You should get an email notification to your SCU email when you have a message to be read, but it is a good idea to check your portal every few days to keep updated on if your records have been approved.

I sent a message to one of the IVS and didn't hear back.

We're sorry, the IVS receive an extremely high volume of messages and cannot always respond promptly. If you don't hear back within three days, please email cowellcenter@scu.edu with your questions or comments.

Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)

How many MMR doses are required?

Two doses spaced out by at least 28 days. Brands can include Priorix and M-M-R II.

Why does my MMR vaccine say No Data?

This happens when you receive the first dose before your first birthday. In this case, you will need another dose or to prove immunity through an antibody titer test. If your dose was received one month or less before your first birthday, please email to let us know.

What if my titer test results were positive for one of the diseases, but not all three?

In this case a MMR vaccine would be required, or two depending on your age. In the U.S. there are not separate vaccines for each of the diseases.

Varicella (Chickenpox)

How many Varicella doses are required?

Two doses spaced out by at least 28 days. If the first dose was received under the age of 13, the second dose should have been administered at least three months after the first dose. Brands can include Varivax.

Why does my Varicella vaccine say No Data?

This happens when you have received the first dose before your first birthday. In this case, you will need another dose or to prove immunity through an antibody titer test. If your dose was received one month or less before your first birthday, please email to let us know.

I had Chickenpox as a child. Does this fulfill the Varicella requirement?

If you can provide official documentation with the disease onset date (month/day/year), we would accept that. If you don't have this, then you would need to get an antibody titer test.

Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap)

How many Tdap doses are required?

One dose not older than 10 years from the date of first attendance of your most recent program at SCU. Brands can include Adacel and Boostrix.

Why does my Tdap vaccine say No Data?

This happens when you have received the dose more than 10 years ago. The requirement is to have a dose within the last 10 years.

My Tdap vaccine wasn't approved and it is not older than 10 years.

Please ensure you have the full Tdap vaccine and not just a Td booster. Also make sure you have Tdap and not DTAP, which is normally the version used for pediatric patients.

Hepatitis B (Hep B)

How many Hep B doses are required?

Three doses spaced out by 0 month, 1 month, 6 months. Brands include Engerix-B, Recombivax-B and Twinrix; OR two-dose Heplisav series spaced out by at least 28 days (two dose series must specify brand).

Why does my Hepatitis B vaccine say No Data? I have all three doses.

This happens when you have received the second dose too close to the first, or the third dose too close to the second. Please reach out via email if this happens.

Meningococcal ACWY/conjugate (Men ACWY)

How many Men ACWY doses are required?

One dose received at age 16 or older. Brands include Menactra (discontinued in 2022), Menveo, MenQuadfi, and Penbraya.

Why does my Men ACWY vaccine say No Data?

This happens when you have received the dose under the age of 16.

I have the Men ACWY vaccine past age 16, but it wasn't approved. Why?

Your record must state either the brand name of the vaccine or specify that it is the conjugate/ACWY version. It cannot only say "Meningococcal." If this information is not on your record, you can request a more detailed record from your doctor, or a brief note from them stating which one you received.

Meningococcal B (Men B)

Is the Men B vaccine required for all students?

The Men B vaccine is required for all students living in on-campus housing who are also under 26. If you will not be living on campus but Men B is showing up as a requirement, please email to let us know.

How many Men B doses are required?

Two doses of Bexsero or at least two doses of Trumenba.

Which Men B vaccines are available and what are the dosing schedules?

[Bexsero](#)** (manufactured by Glaxo-Smith-Kline) is a 2 OR 3-dose series:

- Two doses: at least 6 months must elapse between the doses, or a third is required if received too soon (at least 4 months after the second dose)
- Three doses: spaced at 0, 1 month, 6 months

[Trumenba](#) (manufactured by Pfizer) is a 2 OR 3-dose series:

- Two doses: at least 6 months must elapse between the doses, or a third is required if received too soon (at least 4 months after the second dose)
- Three doses: spaced at 0, 1 month, 6 months

[Penbraya](#) (manufactured by Pfizer) is a 2-dose series with at least 6 months elapsing between doses, the second of which is Trumenba

**Until August 19, 2024, Bexsero was originally 2 doses separated by at least one month.

Can the Men B vaccine brands be mixed?

No, these brands were not formulated to work together. Please ensure your second dose is the same brand as the first. This is also why your record must state which brand was administered.

Will one dose suffice?

No, one must receive at least two doses of either Men B vaccine to be completely protected and compliant with the requirement.

I will not be living on campus/I am 26 or older but I see Men B as a requirement in my Medical Clearances.

Men B will show up for all future/incoming students until we receive the file from the Housing Office with on-campus residents in mid-September. Please request an exemption via email.

Tuberculosis Screening (TB Blood Test)

Who needs a TB Blood Test?

Students coming from countries on [this list](#) are required to complete the Quantiferon Gold Tuberculosis Test. The TB blood test shows up for all international students due to software limitations so if you are not from one of these countries but the TB test is showing up as a requirement, please email to let us know. This list may change as it is updated from the World Health Organization.

Where does the TB Blood Test need to be completed?

The test must be completed at a laboratory in the United States. Results from outside of the United States are not accepted.

Do I also need a Chest X-Ray?

A Chest X-Ray is only required if the results of the TB Blood test are positive. This is to determine if you have an active or latent case of TB.

Where can I get the TB Blood Test?

This service is offered at the Cowell Center by appointment only. It is approximately \$50. [AFC Santa Clara](#), an urgent care facility across from campus, also offers this service. AFC accepts the university-sponsored health insurance plan, Aetna Student Health.

Note on Recommended Vaccines

The following vaccinations are recommended but not required: COVID (most recent formula), Influenza (most recent formula), and Human Papillomavirus (HPV). They appear in the Cowell Portal for completion but are not factored into a student's overall clearance/compliance, therefore there are no consequences for not providing proof of these 3 vaccinations.

Note on Extensions

Extensions for vaccines and/or immunization records will be granted on a case-by-case basis. If you receive a vaccine with more than one dose and need to wait the required interval, please request an extension via email to cowellcenter@scu.edu. You must have uploaded proof of the previous dose first.