Hiram College believes that the entire campus community is best positioned to remain healthy when all people are immunized. Accordingly, students are required to provide proof of full immunization prior to the start of the academic term. As recommended by the CDC's guidelines for vaccination of children and adolescents, required vaccines include Measles, Mumps and Rubella; Polio; Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis primary series and booster within previous 10 years; Meningitis ACWY; Meningitis B and Hepatitis B.

Medical and religious exemptions will be accommodated, but it is our expectation that our campus community will consist predominantly of fully vaccinated individuals, which serves to greatly reduce the risk of infection. Immunization documentation or exemption requests should be submitted by **August 1st** prior to matriculation at the college.

Requesting an Exemption

The College recognizes two possible exemptions to the immunization requirements: a medical exemption and a religious exemption. Information, including how to request an exemption, is included below. For additional information, please contact the Julia Church Health Center at 330-569-5418 or healthcenter@hiram.edu.

Medical Immunization Exemptions: A medical immunization exemption may be granted when a person has a medical condition(s) that prevents them from receiving a vaccine. Typically, medical exemptions are granted when:

- A disease or prescribed medication weakens the person's immune system.
- The person has a severe allergy to the vaccine or a vaccine ingredient.
- The person has had a serious medical reaction which resulted in medical care due to this or other vaccines.

To obtain a medical immunization exemption, please provide a letter from your medical provider (physician and/or advanced health clinician such as a nurse practitioner or physician assistant) that clearly states your name, date of birth and describes the medical reason you should not or are unable to receive the immunization.

Hiram College may request additional information to assist in evaluating any exemption request.

Religious Immunization Exemptions: A religious exemption may be granted to accommodate an individual's sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observation. To obtain an accommodation based on a religious exemption, please provide either:

- a written and signed (by a parent or guardian if the student is under 18) statement from the student that includes all elements listed below:
    - an explanation of such religious belief, practice, or observation
    - a description of the exemption being requested
    - and a statement of how the requested exemption will resolve any conflict between the religious belief, practice, or observation and the College's immunization requirement.

OR

- a letter from your clergy/religious leader that clearly states the name of the student requesting the accommodation, description of the student's sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observation, and statement detailing why an immunization cannot, or should not, be obtained.

Hiram College may request additional information to assist in evaluating an exemption request.

Restrictions for Non-Immunized Individuals:

Hiram College follows the guidance of the CDC, ODH, and the Portage County Health District with regards to infectious disease policies and protocols.

- Travel: Students who are non-fully immunized may not be allowed to participate in Hiram-sponsored trips inside or outside of the United States. Such decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.
- Outbreak of Disease:
    - During a campus outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, non-immunized students may be required to leave campus if campus conditions are deemed unsafe by the College in consultation with the Portage County Health District.
    - Non-immunized students may return to classes and/or living arrangements when approved by the Portage County Health District or the Julia Church Health Center.
    - Non-immunized students are responsible for any loss of fees, loss of credit hours, and/or missed assignments associated with a campus outbreak related leave. There is no guarantee that classes will be available virtually or in a hybrid teaching format if such an outbreak occurs.
- Housing: Residential assignments may be altered if it becomes necessary for the health of any resident(s). Such decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.