



WESTLIBERTY UNIVERSITY

MEASLES AND RUBELLA IMMUNIZATION

Name _____ SS # _____

PLEASE PRINT

You must check one of the following:

- _____ Proof of vaccination is being provided from my family physician. (A letter listing date of the immunization is required.)
- _____ Proof of vaccination is being provided as part of my high school transcript. (In this case you must authorize the high school to release this information.)
- _____ I have had the measles. (Must be certified by the family physician.)
- _____ I will be a part-time student, which exempts me from the requirement.
- _____ I request an exemption from this requirement because of religious belief. (A special form is needed if you use this option. Contact the Office of Admissions to obtain the necessary form.)
- _____ My birthday is prior to January 1, 1957, which exempts me from the requirement.
- _____ I meet none of the above and I understand that I will need to be immunized and provide proof such immunization by the end of my first semester of enrollment.

Signature

Date

(PLEASE READ OTHER SIDE)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MEASLES AND RUBELLA AND MEASLES AND RUBELLA VACCINES

WHAT IS MEASLES? Measles is the most serious of the common childhood diseases. Usually it causes a rash, high fever, cough, runny nose, and watery eyes lasting 1 to 2 weeks. Sometimes it is more serious. It causes an ear infection or pneumonia in nearly 1 out of 10 children who get it. Approximately 1 child out of every 1,000 who get measles has an inflammation of the brain (encephalitis). This can lead to convulsions, deafness, or mental retardation. About 2 children in every 10,000 who get measles die from it. Measles can also cause a pregnant woman to have a miscarriage or give birth to a premature baby.

Before measles vaccine shots were available, there were hundreds of thousands of cases and hundreds of deaths each year. Nearly all children got measles by the time they were 15. Now, wide use of measles vaccine has nearly eliminated measles from the United States. However, if children are not vaccinated they have a high risk of getting measles, either now or later in life.

WHAT IS RUBELLA? Rubella is also called German measles. It is a common disease of children and may also affect adults. Usually it is very mild and causes a slight fever, rash, and swelling of glands in the neck. The sickness lasts about 3 days. Sometimes, especially in adult women, there may be swelling and aching of the joints for a week or two. Very rarely, rubella can cause inflammation of the brain (encephalitis) or cause a temporary bleeding disorder (purpura).

The most serious problem with rubella is that if a pregnant woman gets this disease, there is a good chance that she may have a miscarriage or that the baby will be born crippled, blind, or with other defects. The last big rubella epidemic in the United States was in 1964. Because of that epidemic, about 25,000 children were born with serious problems such as heart defects, deafness, blindness, or mental retardation because their mothers had rubella during the pregnancy.

Before rubella vaccine shots were available, rubella was so common that most children got the disease by the time they were 15. Now, because of the wide use of rubella vaccine, the number of cases of rubella is much lower. However, if children are not vaccinated, they have a high risk of getting rubella and possibly exposing a pregnant woman to the disease. If an unvaccinated woman later becomes pregnant and catches rubella, she may have a defective baby.

Since rubella is a mild illness, many women of childbearing age do not recall if they had rubella as a child. A simple blood test can show whether a person is immune to rubella or is not protected against the disease. Overall, about one in five women of childbearing age is not protected against rubella.

Vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) have declined dramatically during the past 20 years as a cause of morbidity and mortality in the United States. While these declines have been dramatic, significant morbidity and some mortality from these VPDs persist. College-aged students remain particularly susceptible to measles and rubella and these diseases continue to be associated with outbreaks on college campuses. During the recent past, there have been numerous outbreaks on college campuses in the United States and some deaths have occurred in an out-of-state college campus. In view of these circumstances, the West Virginia State Director of Health and the West Virginia Board of Directors requires that proof of valid measles and rubella immunization be an enrollment requirement for students enrolling in West Virginia state colleges and universities.

YOU MUST COMPLETE OTHER SIDE