

INTERIM PROGRAM ATTACHMENT #6: Varicella Vaccination Program

Vaccine(s)	Targeted Disease or Condition
See https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaccines/varivax-refrigerated-and-frozen-formulations for details on the VARIVAX vaccine.	Varicella (Chickenpox)

I. Purpose/Supporting Data

The purpose of this Varicella (VZV) Vaccination Program is to facilitate protection of the health and safety of the University community, including its Students, Personnel, and all others who work, live, and/or learn in any of the University's Locations or otherwise participate in person in University Programs. These three vaccine-preventable illnesses are spread by respiratory transmission, and therefore can pose a risk to other individuals, including Covered Individuals, attending classes, living in residence halls, using other University facilities, or attending University events. The University strongly recommends that all members of the University community immediately obtain the VZV vaccine if they have not already.

This VZV Vaccination Program requires any Covered Individual, as defined in this Program Attachment, subject to limited Exceptions and associated Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs), to be Up-To-Date on VZV vaccination, or provide proof of immunity to varicella by the Compliance Date specified in this Program Attachment as a condition of Physical Presence at a Location or in a University Program. Covered Individuals subject to additional or more restrictive VZV vaccination requirements under applicable law and/or applicable public health directives must also comply with those requirements.

Student Health Services (SHS) at each campus is responsible for collecting evidence of compliance with this VZV Vaccination Program from Covered Individuals and for evaluating any requests for Exceptions as described in this Program Attachment. SHS must submit compliance data to their campus Registrar's Office, so that these Offices can institute registration holds for any Covered Individual who has not complied with these requirements.

Campus Registrars are responsible for initiating holds that restrict class enrollment and registration for any Covered Individual who has not complied with these requirements. Continued noncompliance with this Program Attachment may result in educational consequences up to and including disciplinary sanctions as outlined in PACAOS 105.00.

Campus IT is responsible for creating and maintaining interfaces between the SHS electronic medical record (EMR) system and the Registrars' system to facilitate information transfer needed to connect Covered Individuals with the secured data entry set on the EMR, and to place and remove registration holds.

Covered Individuals who are not Up-To-Date must observe any NPIs as directed by the Location Vaccine Authority (LVA) to mitigate risk to members of the University community, patients, and others with whom they may interact. Covered Individuals who

initially request an Exception but later decide to become vaccinated may receive the VZV vaccine at any time and may notify the LVA.

Refer to Section XI (Related Information) for linked webpages containing additional information that supports implementation of this program, including the applicable public health recommendations, which are incorporated by reference into this Program Attachment, as those may be amended or updated from time to time.

For purposes of this Program Attachment, Covered Individuals include anyone designated as Students under this policy who Physically Access a University Facility or Program in connection with their education/training. Personnel are not Covered Individuals, but Personnel who are also Students are Covered Individuals in their Student role. A person exclusively accessing a Healthcare Location as a patient, or an art, athletics, entertainment, or other publicly accessible venue at a Location as a member of the public, is not a Covered Individual.

II. Compliance Date

Locations must implement this VZV Vaccination Program by January 1, 2025.

For Covered Individuals matriculating after Fall 2024, the Compliance Date is the first day of instruction for the term for which they first enroll. Any Covered Individual who has not provided proof of compliance on or before the registration period for their second term of enrollment will not be allowed to register unless and until the Covered Individual complies with the vaccination requirement or is granted an Exception. Locations may specify additional deadlines.

Covered Individuals matriculating Fall 2024 or who matriculated prior to Fall 2024 should consult with their local SHS regarding deadlines and requirements for compliance.

III. Program Type: Mandatory (Subject to Exceptions Marked Below) Opt-Out

On or before the applicable Compliance Date, Covered Individuals must: (1) provide proof of the VZV vaccination as required to be Up-To-Date; (2) provide proof of immunity; or (3) submit a request for an Exception.

A. Permitted Exceptions (Refer to Model Forms)

Medical Exemption (Medical Contraindications or Precautions to each Vaccine that would satisfy the vaccination requirement.)

Religious Objection (A Covered Individual's objection to receiving an otherwise required Vaccine based on that person's sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance.)

Disability (A physical or mental disorder or condition that limits a major life activity and any other condition recognized as a disability under applicable law. "Disability"

includes pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition where reasonable accommodation is medically advisable.)

B. Exception Requests

A Covered Individual seeking an Exception must, no later than the Compliance Date, submit their request to the Medical Director at the SHS on the Covered Individual's home campus. While a request is pending and if it is granted, the Covered Individual must, as a condition of Physical Presence, observe NPIs defined by the LVA no less stringent than applicable public health directives and any University or Location guidelines. If an Exception is granted, the LVA must notify the Covered Individual and SHS of the approval and the associated expiration date, if any. If a request for an Exception is denied, the Covered Individual will be notified and, thereafter, unless the Covered Individual appeals the decision or requests a different Exception, the Covered Individual will be expected to promptly provide proof of VZV vaccination as required to be Up-To-Date or proof of immunity or will be denied Physical Presence at the relevant University Location(s) or Program(s).

A Covered Individual has the right to appeal the denial of their Exception request. The Covered Individual must submit an appeal request, along with the relevant Exception request form to the Medical Director of their campus SHS; the appeal request and the accompanying Exception request form will be reviewed by the LVA, and the LVA will subsequently issue a decision. A Covered Individual who submits an appeal will be allowed to register for classes throughout the academic period in which the appeal is being reviewed, decided, and communicated and may be subject to NPIs during that time. If the LVA denies the Covered Individual's appeal, the Covered Individual will not be allowed to register for classes the following term unless the Covered Individual complies with the vaccination requirement or subsequently requests and is granted a University-approved Exception.

V. Evidence Required

Covered Individuals must submit proof of vaccination or immunity to varicella or of a University-approved Exception to their SHS, by providing either: (i) official documentation issued by a State vaccine registry or an official medical record, or (ii) in the case of one who has received a University-approved Exception, documentation that an Exception has been granted. Proof of immunity and Exceptions may be subject to audit.

All Covered Individuals must enter their vaccination history and/or disease-specific antibody titers directly into their electronic medical record (EMR) via a secure interface on or before the first day of instruction for their first term of enrollment. This is accessed either through a link on the student portal on the campus Registrar's website or directly via the SHS website. Covered Individuals must also submit documentation of vaccinations received, or titers indicating immunity to disease, directly to the SHS via secure document upload, fax, mail, or hand delivery on or before the first day of instruction of their first academic term. Verification of Covered Individual-entered immunization history will be performed on some or all of the self-entered data.

VI. Access to Vaccines

Covered Individuals are strongly encouraged to complete VZV vaccination prior to arriving at their campus, and to submit their vaccination history and documentation in advance so they do not experience a delay in registration. Covered Individuals may have the option to obtain the VZV vaccination at the SHS where they are enrolled or at a community pharmacy or clinic.

Vaccination costs are covered by all health insurance plans, as required by the Affordable Care Act. UC Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) covers and pays for vaccinations provided at the SHS or at in-network pharmacies or clinics. However, SHS only bills and collects from UC SHIP directly; SHS does not bill and collect from other health insurance plans. Covered Individuals with health insurance plans other than UC SHIP who obtain vaccinations at SHS may be required to pay out-of-pocket for their vaccinations and then submit requests for reimbursement to their health insurance plans. Covered Individuals with health insurance plans other than SHIP may obtain vaccinations from their primary care provider or a community pharmacy to avoid paying for the cost of these vaccinations up front at the SHS.

VII. Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs)

Covered Individuals may be required by applicable public health authorities or the LVA in response to a public health emergency or during a localized outbreak to observe NPIs, including, but not limited to, the following: (i) wearing face-coverings, medical-grade masks, and other protective equipment; (ii) isolation and quarantine; (iii) physical/social distancing; (iv) frequent washing and cleaning; and (v) asymptomatic (surveillance/screening) and symptomatic testing.

Covered Individuals who are not Up-To-Date on the VZV vaccination may be subject to NPIs above and beyond those who have demonstrated compliance. In the event of a disease outbreak, Covered Individuals who are not Up-To-Date on the VZV vaccination may be excluded from the Location or site of the outbreak.

VIII. Vaccine Education

All Covered Individuals who are not Up-To-Date on the VZV vaccination or who have not provided proof of compliance with this VZV Vaccination Program by the Compliance Date must participate in any Vaccine Education required by the LVA. During a public health emergency or during a localized outbreak, all Covered Individuals may be required to participate in additional systemwide or local Vaccine Education programs. Additional Vaccine Education may be required by the LVA consistent with applicable federal, state, or local laws, regulations, or accreditation standards.

IX. Systemwide Implementation Guidelines: Attached None

X. Program Evaluation

This VZV Vaccination Program is intended to maintain the VZV vaccination uptake rate among Covered Individuals in order to preserve herd immunity in the University community. In the event that the uptake rate at a particular University Location drops

below the recommended level to preserve herd immunity (as dictated by the local public health authority), or as otherwise recommended or required by the local public health authority in response to a localized outbreak, the University may modify this Program Attachment to protect the health and safety of its Covered Individuals and the University community. Locations are encouraged, but not required, to evaluate Program Participation on an annual and ongoing basis.

XI. Related Information

- [CDC, Chickenpox/Varicella Vaccination](#)
- [CDC, Varicella \(Chickenpox\) Vaccine Information Statement](#)
- [CDC Immunization Schedules](#)
- [CDPH, Recommendations for Immunization and Screening Requirements for California Colleges and Universities](#)
- [American College Health Association \(ACHA\) Guidelines: Immunization Recommendations for College Students](#), April 2023
- [ACIP Vaccine Recommendations and Guidelines](#)

XII. Frequently Asked Questions

1. How does UC determine which vaccines and screening to require?

The University relies on the recommendations of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) [Recommendations for Immunization and Screening Requirements for California Colleges & Universities](#), the American College Health Association (ACHA) Guidelines: [Immunization Recommendations for College Students](#), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) [Vaccine Recommendations and Guidelines](#). The current requirements reflect the CDPH [Recommendations for Immunization and Screening Requirements for California Colleges and Universities](#) in place on February 26, 2024. However, the University reserves the right to modify these requirements pending revisions to the recommendations by CDPH, ACHA, or ACIP. Changes in CDPH, ACHA, or ACIP recommendations, as of February each year, will be incorporated into the requirements affecting the incoming fall class for that year. Additional revisions may be made in response to significant public health events, such as a pandemic or other public health emergency. Please see [UC Immunization Requirements and Recommendations](#) for information on required and recommended vaccines. In general, these requirements pertain to those vaccine-preventable illnesses that can be spread by respiratory secretions (saliva, coughing, sneezing), and pose a risk to others who might become ill due to classroom or residential contact.

Note: Covered Individuals may be subject to more restrictive vaccination requirements under applicable law and/or applicable public health directives. In

such cases, the more restrictive vaccination requirements will apply in addition to any other requirements under these Vaccination Program Attachments.

2. Why did UC implement the VZV Vaccination Program?

The University's 2016 [Student Immunization Policy](#) was issued in response to an increase in outbreaks of vaccine-preventable illnesses that had occurred on UC campuses and the reemergence of illnesses once thought to have nearly disappeared. Although varicella (chickenpox), the focus of the VZV vaccine, is considered "mild," it can cause serious illness, lifelong complications, and even death. This Program Attachment incorporates the VZV vaccination requirement from the 2016 Policy as an addendum to the systemwide Policy on Vaccination Programs.

3. What if the required VZV vaccination was not available in my home country before coming to UC?

Please check with your local campus SHS for information regarding the timeline for registration holds if you were not able to meet VZV vaccination requirements before your arrival to UC for this reason.

4. If my family have concerns regarding the safety of vaccines and have chosen not to be vaccinated. Will I be prevented from attending classes at UC if I do not obtain the required vaccines?

Covered Individuals who have not provided evidence of the required vaccination or immunity to all diseases for which vaccination is required, and who have not received a University-approved Exception, will not be able to register for classes. Locations may impose additional restrictions, so please check with your local campus SHS for more information.

5. I had an allergic reaction to a vaccination. Am I still required to be vaccinated to enter UC?

It is very important that the doctor/nurse practitioner/physician assistant who cared for you at that time document what happened to you when you had the problem with vaccination. If you had a true "allergic reaction," then SHS will need to know which vaccination caused the problem, and whether you were able to become immune to that illness. You will need to complete a "[Medical Exemption Request Form](#)," and submit it to the Medical Director at your campus SHS.

6. What is the process for requesting an Exception?

Covered Individuals with a medical condition that prevents them from being safely vaccinated may apply for a Medical Exemption by having a licensed, treating medical provider [specifically a physician (MD or DO), nurse practitioner (NP), or physician assistant (PA)] complete the University's Medical Exemption Request Form. Covered Individuals must then submit the completed form to the Medical Director at the SHS on their home campus. Requests that specify a contraindication or precaution to a Vaccine recognized by the CDC, CDPH, or in

the case of internationally administered Vaccines, the World Health Organization, and that indicate the specific nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstances that contraindicate immunization with the vaccine(s) will meet criteria for approval. Medical Exemption requests outside of these categories will be denied.

Covered Individuals should use the Disability Exception Request Form to request an exception based on that Covered Individual's disability or disabilities, and then submit the completed form to the Medical Director at the SHS on their home campus.

Likewise, Covered Individuals should use the Religious Exception Request Form to request an Exception based on Religious Objection, and then submit the completed form to the Medical Director at the SHS on their home campus.

7. My Exception Request was denied. Can I appeal that decision?

If your request for an Exception is denied, you have a right to appeal the decision to the LVA by submitting an appeal request, along with the relevant Exception Request Form, to the Medical Director of your campus SHS. Covered Individuals who have submitted appeals will be able to attend courses during the quarter/semester that their appeals are undergoing review and may be subject to additional NPIs.

8. Will I be able to get the vaccines I need from Student Health Services on my campus?

Covered Individuals are *strongly encouraged* to complete all necessary vaccinations and/or testing prior to arriving at their campus, and to submit their vaccination history and documentation in advance to minimize the chance that they will experience a delay in registration if vaccination requirements have not already been met. Where necessary, Covered Individuals may alternatively request the necessary vaccinations at the SHS where they are enrolled. While all of the campus Student Health Services stock and administer the required vaccinations, the University strongly encourages you to receive these vaccines *before* arriving at UC. Covered Individuals should be prepared to request these vaccines from retail pharmacies or community medical providers.

9. I don't have the SHIP or UC SHIP Insurance Plan, and didn't get my vaccinations or testing done by my regular medical provider at home – how can I request that my outside insurance cover some or all of the costs to get vaccinations or testing done at SHS?

Vaccination costs are covered by all health insurance plans, as required by the Affordable Care Act. However, currently, the campus SHS centers do not bill insurance plans other than their respective Student Health Insurance Plans (SHIP or UC SHIP) available on your campus - which means you would need to pay out-of-pocket for these immunizations. If do not have SHIP or UC SHIP and decide to obtain vaccinations at the SHS on your campus, SHS will provide you with an itemized list of charges for you to send to your insurance company to

request reimbursement. While many insurance companies will retroactively reimburse their members for services already obtained, some require prior authorization. If you do not have SHIP or UC SHIP it is important for you to check with your insurance company before receiving services at SHS to verify your coverage.

Alternatively, Covered Individuals without SHIP insurance plans may obtain vaccinations from their primary care provider in order to avoid paying the full cost for these vaccinations or tests at the SHS.

XIII. Model Forms and Exhibits

[Link to be inserted: University of California Religious Exception Request Form]

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XIV. Revision History

TBD 2024: Initial issuance of Interim Program Attachment requiring Locations to implement this VZV Vaccination Program by January 1, 2025.