



TO: NEW ENTRANTS, PARENTS, TRANSFER STUDENTS AND FORMER STUDENTS RETURNING:

The Student Health Center staff extends a warm welcome to all. All students entering a school or college of the University for the first time or returning after an absence of a semester or more, are required to submit a completed **Report of Medical History as well as an Immunization and Tuberculosis Screening Certificate signed by a licensed health care provider**. Please note that there is a separate Immunization and Tuberculosis Screening Certificate form for students entering Health Professions schools as opposed to those entering Non-Health Professions schools. Enclosed in this package are all the forms that you will need to document the health requirements. If you have not received the forms with this letter, please access our website www.howard.edu/studenthealth for the most updated information and forms on the University's health requirements. You should take this letter, a copy of all of your immunization records, and the enclosed health-related forms to your health care provider for review; this will allow your health care provider to complete the forms appropriately.

Compliance with the immunization requirements is mandatory and your medical clearance is a prerequisite for registration. Therefore you should complete all medical requirements prior to coming to our campus. The forms should be submitted directly to the Student Health Center as soon as possible but **no later than July 1 for Fall entrants and no later than December 1 for Spring entrants** to avoid **a medical hold** and any unnecessary delays in your registration. Students may mail the completed forms to the Student Health Center and/or fax the forms to the Student Health Center (202-806-7416). Students should retain a copy of all documents submitted to the Student Health Center. Whenever there are questions concerning immunization compliance and/or a medical hold, the student should have on hand a copy of all immunization information submitted to the Student Health Center (do not submit the original copies of your childhood immunization records).

If for some reason a student is unable to complete the immunization requirements before presenting to Howard's campus, students may come to the Student Health Center for assistance in meeting the immunization requirements. However, students who are non compliant with the immunization requirements will be on medical hold and the student should expect to remain on medical hold

Student Health Center
2139 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20059

Telephone 202 806-7540
Facsimile 202 806-7416
www.howard.edu/studenthealth

until he/she is compliant with all the required immunizations. Finally, let me share information with you on the **Meningococcal vaccine**. Meningococcal disease, a potentially fatal bacterial infection, has received much media discussion over the past several years. Even though the vaccine does not protect the student from all the strains that cause this form of meningitis, up to 83% of all cases in adolescents and young adults could have been potentially prevented by this vaccine. **The CDC recommends that college students, particularly freshmen living in residence halls, be educated about meningitis and the benefits of vaccination.** The recommendation further states that information about the disease and vaccination is appropriate for other undergraduate students who also wish to reduce their risk for the disease. Meningitis is rare. However, when it strikes, its flu-like symptoms make diagnosis difficult. If not treated early, meningitis can lead to swelling of the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal column as well as severe and permanent disabilities, such as hearing loss, brain damage, seizures, limb amputation and even death. **On May 2, 2008, the District of Columbia Health Department regulations mandated that all students entering a college for the first time receive the meningococcal vaccine or sign a waiver. We strongly recommend that all students planning to live in University housing receive the Meningococcal vaccine before arriving on campus.** Please visit our website www.howard.edu/studenthealth and learn about access to health care at Howard University.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Treakle-Moore, M.D., FACP
Director, Student Health

SHC 2/06-HO-13 (Revised 12/09)