



**VISITING INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENT ELECTIVES HEALTH  
FORM**

(updated 3/16/2022)

**Instructions**

1. The Health Form must be completed and signed by a licensed health care professional (Physician, Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant) unrelated to the elective applicant. *Completion by a Dean or student records office is not acceptable.* All sections are required. All dates should be in mm/dd/yyyy format. *Please do not simply attach office records in lieu of completing the form.*
2. Laboratory tests of immunity are required for international students rotating at Weill Cornell Medicine, New York Presbyterian Hospital and affiliates.
  - a. Equivocal, indeterminate or inconclusive results are considered **NEGATIVE**, and the applicant should demonstrate receipt of appropriate vaccine boosters
  - b. Lab reports must include patient name, date of results, name and address of performing lab and reference ranges. Screenshots and flowsheets are not acceptable documentation. If the lab reports are not in English, you must provide certified English translations along with the original reports.
3. The following summarizes our campus health requirements:
  - a. **MMR** – serologic immunity to all three antigens. If non-immune serology need documentation of at least two doses of MMR vaccine administered per standard U.S. schedule: 2 doses, administered after age 1, at least 28 days apart
  - b. **Varicella** – serologic immunity. If non-immune serology, need documentation of two doses of varicella vaccine administered per standard U.S. schedule: 2 doses, administered after age 1, at least 28 days apart
  - c. **Hepatitis B** – completion of either a 2-dose or 3-dose hepatitis B series AND post immunization hepatitis B surface antibody titer. If titer is negative, need to check a hepatitis B surface antigen. If no antigen detected, can offer repeat/booster doses of vaccine and retesting per standard U.S. schedule.



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- d. **Tetanus** – One dose of Tdap after 2005 and a Td or Tdap within the last 10 years
- e. **Tuberculosis testing/screening** –Interferon Gamma Release Assay: Quantiferon Gold or T-spot blood test performed within 12 months of the elective start date. Skin test is not accepted. Chest x-rays are not sufficient screens. Please provide a copy of the lab report with your materials. *Please note that our TB screening requirements differ from CDC 2019 TB Screening guidelines due to NYS public health laws, and so yearly testing is required.*
  - Those with a positive Quantiferon test will need to include a report of a chest x-ray performed within the last 12 months, and documentation that the individual is free of symptoms of tuberculosis and/or taking medication.
- f. **Physical Examination** within 12 months of the start of the applicant’s elective or letter from personal physician indicating that applicant is in excellent general health without evidence of communicable illness or impairment.
- g. **Influenza Vaccine documentation** – for electives that take place September through April. Per New York State law, documentation must include at a minimum the date vaccine was administered and name and address of administering clinician. You may utilize our flu documentation form or provide comparable documentation from your home institution.
- h. **COVID-19 vaccine documentation** – completed vaccination against COVID-19 with a vaccine approved or authorized by the U.S. FDA or under emergency use authorization by the World Health Organization is required. Booster doses of vaccine are required. Please also include a copy of your official vaccination card.
- i. **Signature and office stamp of the clinician** Completion by school administrative officers that are not treating clinicians or health services staff is not permitted and may result in being denied medical clearance.

If you believe you qualify for an accommodation for a medical or religious exemption for any of our requirements, please send an inquiry to [globalhealthelectives@med.cornell.edu](mailto:globalhealthelectives@med.cornell.edu).

4. Submit completed forms and supporting documentation (e.g. laboratory and chest x-ray reports) for review:



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## VSLO Applicants

Upload the completed form and supporting documentation as one document to VSLO as a post-acceptance document no later than 45 days prior to the start date of the course. Documents will not be accepted via email.

## Non-VSLO Applicants

Upload the form and supporting documents with the remainder of your elective application as instructed by the Office of International Medical Student Education.

**\*\* NOTE: DOCUMENTS MUST BE IN PDF FORMAT OR MULTIPAGE TIFF.**

**Do not upload JPG, PNG, DOCX, smartphone camera images. Documents not in proper format will not be reviewed and health clearance will not be granted.**

5. Students may be contacted directly by Electives office and/or health services staff if an elective is granted and there are remaining health deficiencies. *Students not meeting health requirements per campus standards will not be able to participate in patient care activities and elective offers may be withdrawn.*
6. Note that visiting students do not have access to Weill Cornell Medicine Student Health Services for routine or primary care. Visiting students should check with their insurance carrier to identify local in-network providers for their ongoing healthcare needs. Students will be financially responsible for any healthcare costs they incur during their time in the program. Students with on-site electives must follow all campus and hospital health and safety policies.

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## Pre-Upload Checklist



Prior to uploading into VSLO or sending to the electives office make sure you have collected the following:

- Signed, stamped WCM Visiting Student Electives Health Form. *AAMC Immunization form is not accepted in lieu of our form.* If you provide the AAMC form you must provide a separate physical exam or health



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attestation from your healthcare provider

- Influenza Vaccine Documentation (Sept – May electives)
- Lab reports for serologies
- Lab reports for TB IGRA (T-spot or Quantiferon Gold)
- Chest X-ray report (if done)
- Scan of Official COVID-19 vaccination documentation
- Did you combine all documents into a **single PDF** or **multipage TIFF file** (do not upload these instructions; do not upload a Word document or use cell phone pictures; please do not put multiple images on one page. Use a good quality scanner or dedicated scanning app.)

*Individuals with incomplete or illegible health submissions will not be medically cleared for participation and will have their elective invitation revoked.*



## **Health Statement FAQ**

Below are answers to questions specific to our health statement form. We recommend students print out this FAQ to bring to their physician when completing the health statement. **You must have the health statement completed and signed by your physician- no exceptions.**

If your physician has a question and there is not an answer to your health statement question below, email Dianne Young at [dey2001@med.cornell.edu](mailto:dey2001@med.cornell.edu)

7. Your physician must transcribe all lab results for immunizations using titers.
8. Antibody titers that are borderline or equivocal are considered “negative” – meaning you have not demonstrated immunity. Otherwise, antibody titers should be “positive”, “reactive” or “immune”.
9. You must provide IGRAs lab results (Quantiferon Gold or T-spot) for tuberculosis screening. Mantoux (skin) tests are not accepted. Positive results for TB tests will require additional information.
10. If necessary, we will consult the Director of Student Health on your behalf if we cannot directly answer your health statement question.

**Can I provide with qualitative Varicella titer (positive/negative result) instead of quantitative one since quantitative Varicella titer is not available in my country?**

Yes. Qualitative results are acceptable for measles, mumps, rubella and varicella immunity. Quantitative results are required for hepatitis B surface antibody.

**Tdap booster is not available in my country. Can I receive it in U.S. prior to the start of my elective?**

Yes, that is acceptable. You must submit proof before you can begin your elective, so schedule accordingly.

**My last dose of Hepatitis B vaccine is at a future date. Can I submit my application while waiting to have my health form updated?**

Yes. You can submit your other application documents along with your partially-completed Health Statement. Once you have a completed Health Statement, you should submit it to [globalhealthselectives@med.cornell.edu](mailto:globalhealthselectives@med.cornell.edu)

**If my IGRA test is positive with a normal chest x-ray, will I be ineligible for your program?**



A positive IGRA result does not preclude you from applying to the elective.

Along with the other health items you're instructed to provide, you must include the documentation of the positive test result, a copy of a recent chest x-ray report in English demonstrating no evidence of active tuberculosis. Finally, your physician should include a letter/statement saying that you are free of symptoms of tuberculosis and whether or not you have received treatment for latent tuberculosis infection.

**I've been informed that my local health center only offers Tuberculin/Mantoux test, what can I do? Can I submit just a chest x-ray?**

A chest x-ray by itself is not an adequate screen for tuberculosis. If tuberculosis blood testing is not available to you locally, you can submit a skin test result but you will have to get a blood test result before you can start your elective.

**If given the below options for the Hepatitis B test, which one is the best to check?**

- a. Hep B surface antigen
- b. Hep B surface antibody
- c. Hep B Viral load

**Hepatitis B surface antibody** is the preferred test to demonstrate immunity against hepatitis B, especially if you have been previously vaccinated.

If hepatitis B surface antibody does not demonstrate immunity to hepatitis B, then you should proceed with a hepatitis B surface antigen test. This also will determine whether you have a chronic hepatitis B infection prior to obtaining any additional hepatitis B vaccination.

Hepatitis B viral load testing is required if you have chronic hepatitis B infection as evidenced by a negative hepatitis B surface antibody test and positive hepatitis B surface antigen test. Students with chronic hepatitis B infection may still participate in most rotations- However, your elective may be modified in regards to participation in more invasive procedures.

**How recent do the blood tests have to be for the health statement form? I have Hep B titers that were done a few years ago at my university occupational health service.**

For measles, mumps, rubella and varicella: if the prior records demonstrate satisfactory immunity, there is no need to repeat testing.

For hepatitis B: we request that the tests are administered within the 6 months prior to the start of the elective.

**Among my antibody test results, the rubella titers are equivocal, but mumps and measles are positive (IgG). Should I take the MMR vaccine, and if- so how many doses? Would I have to do the titers again after the vaccination?**



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Students with equivocal or negative antibody titers for measles, mumps, rubella or varicella may be immunized according to the schedule below. You should include copies of all immunization dates with your health statement.

## Measles:

- a) If you have documentation that you have received 2 prior doses of MMR vaccine after your first birthday, you may receive one additional dose of MMR vaccine, OR
- b) If you do not have documentation of 2 prior doses of MMR vaccine, you must get 2 doses of MMR vaccine administered 4 weeks apart.

## Mumps:

- a) If you have documentation that you have received 2 prior doses of MMR vaccine after your first birthday, you may receive one additional dose of MMR vaccine, OR
- b) If you do not have documentation of 2 prior doses of MMR vaccine, you must get 2 doses of MMR vaccine administered 4 weeks apart.

## Rubella:

- a) If you have documentation that you have received 2 prior doses of MMR vaccine after your first birthday, you may receive one additional dose of MMR vaccine, OR
- b) If you do not have documentation of 2 prior doses of MMR vaccine, you must get one additional dose of vaccine

## Varicella:

- a) If you have documentation that you have received 2 prior doses of varicella vaccine after your first birthday, you may receive one additional dose of varicella vaccine, OR
- b) If you do not have documentation of 2 prior doses of varicella vaccine, you must get 2 doses of varicella vaccine administered 4 weeks apart.

**Note: Titers after repeat vaccinations are typically not required for rotations at New York Presbyterian Hospital, but may be required at other rotation sites. If you proceed with repeat titers, your physician should administer the titers 4-6 weeks after the last vaccination.**

If your physician has a question and there is not an answer to your health statement question below, email Dianne Young at [dey2001@med.cornell.edu](mailto:dey2001@med.cornell.edu)

For any other questions about applying to our program, email [globalhealthselectives@med.cornell.edu](mailto:globalhealthselectives@med.cornell.edu)