Process for Medical and Religious Waivers from Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Vaccination

New York State Public Health Law (PHL) 2165 requires students attending institutions of higher education to prove they are immune to measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), with certain exceptions. The Decker Student Health Services Center (DSHSC) begins working with students to help them in becoming compliant with this law once they have paid their deposit. However, this law allows students with medical or religious objections to vaccination to request a waiver from the requirement. This document explains the procedure for requesting such waivers.

There is no waiver process for exemption from PHL 2167, which pertains to Meningococcal meningitis vaccine. This law states students need to submit a Meningococcal Meningitis Response Form. Students opposed to vaccination should choose the option indicating they choose not to be vaccinated. This form is available on the student health portal [https://binghamton.medicatconnect.com/](https://binghamton.medicatconnect.com/).

A SEPARATE PROCESS EXISTS TO REQUEST AN EXEMPTION FOR THE COVID-19 VACCINE. Please go to this webpage for details: [https://www.binghamton.edu/health/covid-19/index.html](https://www.binghamton.edu/health/covid-19/index.html).

MEDICAL WAIVER

If a licensed physician or nurse practitioner, or licensed midwife caring for a pregnant student certifies in writing that the student has a health condition which is a valid contraindication to receiving a specific vaccine, then a permanent or temporary (for resolvable conditions such as pregnancy) exemption may be granted. This statement must specify those immunizations which may be detrimental and the length of time they may be detrimental. Please be aware that, in the event of an outbreak, medically exempt individuals should be protected from exposure. This may include exclusion from classes or campus.

Medical Waiver Process

The documents required to approve either a medical or religious waiver must be uploaded through the student health portal at [https://binghamton.medicatconnect.com/](https://binghamton.medicatconnect.com/). Go to the “Upload” page and following the instructions. Once the appropriate documentation is received, students will be notified of the approval or denial of their request for a medical exemption through the Secure Message function of the student health portal. Students requesting a medical waiver must upload a certification from their medical provider which contains the following information:

- The name, credentials, and contact information of the medical provider.
- The first and last name, and the date of birth or B-number, of the student must appear on each page of the uploaded documents.
- The specific immunization(s) to which a contraindication exists.
- The length of time the contraindication is expected to last.

RELIGIOUS WAIVER

A student may be exempt from vaccination if, in the opinion of the institution, that student or student's parent(s) or guardian of those less than 18 years old holds genuine and sincere religious beliefs which are contrary to the practice of immunization. Requests for exemptions must be written and signed by the student if 18 years of age or older, or parent(s), or guardian if under the age of 18. Each statement requesting a religious
exemption must be specific to the college in which the student is currently enrolled. Prior religious exemption statements addressed to other institutions are not considered valid. PHL Section 2165 does not allow for philosophical exemptions. The student requesting exemption may or may not be a member of an established religious organization. Supporting documents may be requested. It is not required that a religious exemption statement be notarized. Please be aware that, in the event of an outbreak, religious exempt individuals should be protected from exposure. This may include exclusion from classes or campus.

**Religious Waiver Process**

The documents required to approve either a medical or religious waiver must be uploaded through the student health portal at [https://binghamton.medicatconnect.com/](https://binghamton.medicatconnect.com/). Go to the “Upload” page and following the instructions. Once the appropriate documentation is received, students will be notified of the approval or denial of their request for a religious exemption through the Secure Message function of the student health portal. Students requesting a religious exemption from PHL 2165 must submit the following through the student health portal:

- A personal statement explaining they hold genuine and sincere religious beliefs which are contrary to the practice of immunization.
- This statement must be signed by the student if they are 18 years of age or older, and by the parent/guardian if the student is younger than 18.
- The statement must be specifically addressed to:  
  Medical Director  
  Decker Student Health Services  
  Binghamton University