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**Seattle Pacific University**

**Immunization Requirement Policy**

**Prevention** of communicable disease is a part of a University wide Exposure Control, Mitigation and Response Plan. Communicable diseases are defined as infectious diseases that are transmissible by direct or indirect contact with an infected individual. University settings are particularly vulnerable to the spread of infectious disease due to the shared living spaces and close proximity of campus community members.

Outbreaks of infectious diseases cause great disruption and emotional and financial burdens for campuses, students, and their families. Immunizations offer safe and effective protection from vaccine-preventable diseases and outbreaks.

Assuring compliance with the certain immunization recommendations is particularly important in preventing disease clusters and outbreaks on campuses.

COVID-19 has had tremendous impact on our community, campus and on the world. A key component to allowing in-person campus activities is the prevention of this infection by all means possible. Measles is a highly contagious virus and it can have serious complications in all age groups.

Beginning prior to the autumn 2021 quarter, consistent with recommendations from the American College Health Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Washington State Department of Health, Seattle Pacific University will require all SPU students to present official documentation of full vaccination against COVID-19 and immunity to measles.

**Documentation** must be signed, stamped or on letterhead from a healthcare provider’s office, state immunization data base, or pharmacy and confirm completion of a vaccination series consistent with current guidelines for vaccine prevention of COVID-19 and Measles. Alternatives for measles immunity documentation include – birthdate before January 1, 1957 or positive antibody titer for measles virus. FDA and World Health Organization approved vaccine series are acceptable.

**Medical or Religious Exemptions** can be requested by completing the corresponding forms and providing the required supportive documents outlined in the forms. Exemptions will be tracked by Health Services and they must be reviewed and renewed annually and before the start of each Fall quarter. Medical Exemptions should be supported with a letter from a licensed healthcare provider. Religious Exemptions should be supported by a letter of religious affiliation. In the event of a vaccine preventable, communicable disease case involving an SPU community member or setting, any student without required immunization documentation or an approved exemption on file, may be subject to additional viral transmission mitigation protocols based on health authority guidelines including: being asked to wear a mask in certain areas, surveillance testing, testing and quarantine following exposures to a positive case or upon return from travel or they may be excluded from campus until the risk of infection is resolved as determined by the local public health authorities. Exclusion can include classrooms and all campus buildings, including residence halls, dining facilities, classrooms, labs, gyms, offices and other SPU facilities. Costs associated with testing, quarantine and exclusions are at the expense of the individual. Individuals may choose to be immunized at the time of an outbreak to avoid exclusion if applicable and available and fees may apply.