

# Frequently Asked Questions for Colleges and Universities on North Carolina Immunization Requirements

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## Are all college students required to show proof of immunization?

Yes, per [§ 130A-155.1](#), residential students are required to show documentation of immunization. Non-residential students are required to show documentation of immunization unless they qualify as exempt through a combination of the following:

<b>Live off campus</b>	<b><u>AND</u></b>	<b>Attend courses that fit any combination of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• off campus courses</li><li>• evening courses (after 5pm)</li><li>• weekend courses</li><li>• no more than four day-credit hours in on-campus courses</li></ul>
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If at any time a student who was previously exempt no longer meets the above exemption criteria, they must show proof of immunization.

## Do community colleges require these same immunizations?

No. Community colleges created under [NC GS, Chapter 115D](#) are not required to have students provide proof of immunizations.

## How do we address students who cannot locate their immunization records?

In general, if records are incomplete or cannot be located, students may need to repeat some vaccines. Titers or serological testing are NOT accepted as proof of meeting the Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV), Tdap/Td, or Hepatitis B requirement. Titers or serological testing are only accepted as proof of meeting the MMR and varicella vaccine requirements.

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## Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV) Requirement

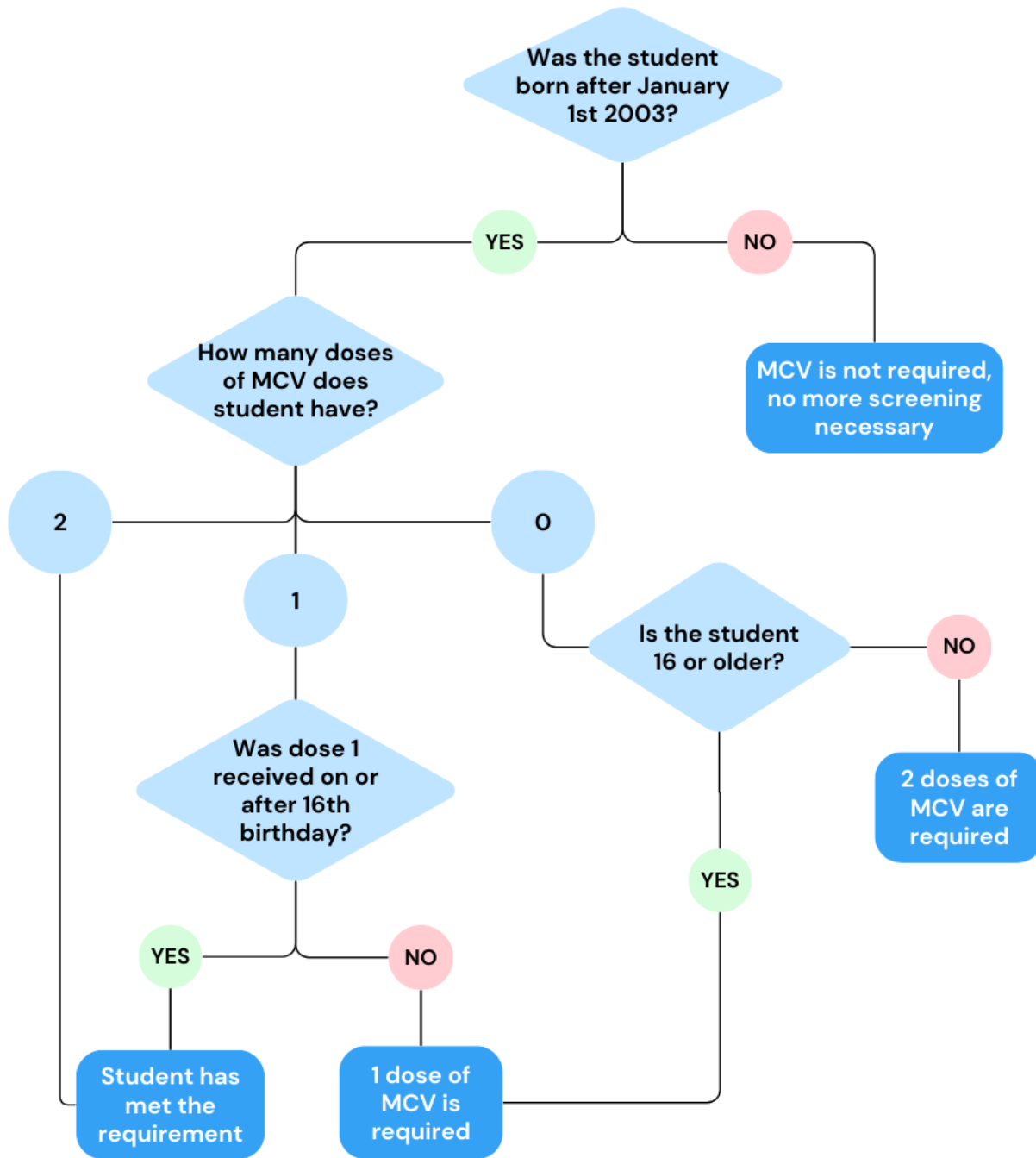
### **NCAC 41A .0401 DOSAGE AND AGE REQUIREMENTS FOR IMMUNIZATION**

Meningococcal conjugate vaccine – two doses: one dose is required for individuals entering the seventh grade or by 12 years of age, whichever comes first on or after July 1, 2015. A booster dose is required by 17 years of age or by entering the 12th grade. However:

- (A) The first dose does not apply to individuals who entered seventh grade before July 1, 2015.
- (B) The booster dose does not apply to individuals who entered the 12th grade before August 1, 2020.
- (C) If the first dose is administered on or after the 16th birthday, a booster dose is not required.
- (D) An individual born before January 1, 2003, shall not be required to receive a meningococcal conjugate vaccine.

## What are the requirements for Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV)?

All students born after January 1, 2003 are required to have 2 doses of MCV. However, based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP), requirements may be different based on age and timing of first vaccination. Use the algorithm below to determine requirements.



## What vaccines satisfy the MCV requirement?

The vaccines listed below satisfy the MCV requirement. Vaccines are interchangeable when more than one brand is age-appropriate. If international students submit proof with a vaccine not in the list below, call the Immunization Branch on-call nurse at 919-707-5575 to determine if it is an acceptable vaccine.

Trade Name	Serogroups	Year Licensed
Menactra	A, C, W, Y	2005 (Discontinued the end of 2022)
Menveo	A, C, W, Y	2010
MenQuadfi	A, C, W, Y	2020
Penbraya*	A, B, C, W, Y	2023 (Available for use in NC 2024)
Menomune	A, C, W, Y	As of 2017 this is no longer available in the US, but still counts as a valid dose of MCV

\*Penbraya contains MenACWY & Serogroup B, but only the MenACWY is required and accepted for college entry. Serogroup B vaccines Bexsero/Trumenba will not satisfy the MCV requirement.

## Is Meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine required in NC?

No. At this time MenB vaccines are not required by NC law and these vaccines will not meet the MCV requirement for college entry. Penbraya, which includes MenACWY and MenB, is an acceptable vaccine for the MCV requirement.

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## Tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis Requirement

### 10A NCAC 41A .0401 DOSAGE AND AGE REQUIREMENTS FOR IMMUNIZATION

- (1) Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough) - five doses: three doses by age seven months; and 2 booster doses, the first by age 19 months and the second on or after the fourth birthday and before entering school for the first time. However:
  - (A) Individuals who receive the first booster dose of diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis vaccine on or after the fourth birthday are not required to have a second booster.
  - (B) Individuals entering college or university for the first time on or after July 1, 2008, must have had three doses of tetanus/diphtheria toxoid, one of which must be tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis.
  - (C) A booster dose of tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis vaccine is required for individuals who have not previously received it and are entering the seventh grade or by 12 years of age, whichever comes first.

**What are the requirements for Td/Tdap for entry into a NC college/university?**

- If a student previously attended college prior to July 1, 2008, they are **not** required to have documentation of Td or Tdap vaccination.
- All individuals that enter a NC college/university for the first time on or after July 1, 2008, must have documentation of 3 doses of tetanus/diphtheria toxoid vaccine and 1 of those must be a tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis vaccine (Tdap) that was given on or after age 10, per ACIP recommendations.
- Students entering college on or after July 1, 2008, who lack documentation of the above must complete the adult catch up schedule until the requirements are met.

Examples:

Documentation Submitted by Student	Doses Needed to be Up to Date
1 DTaP (childhood); Tdap at age 11 years	Student needs 1 dose of Tdap/Td*
3 DTaP (childhood primary series)	Student needs 1 dose of Tdap
1 Tdap at 13 years	Student needs 2 doses of Tdap/Td*, with a minimum interval of 6 months between doses
No doses of DTaP/Td/Tdap	Student needs 1 dose of Tdap, followed by 2 doses of Tdap/Td*, with a minimum interval of 4 weeks between dose #1 and dose #2, and a minimum interval of 6 months between dose #2 and dose #3

\*Taking into account the limited Td supply at this time, multiple Tdap doses may be used.

- As of July 2024, there is a limited supply of Td due to the loss of one manufacturer of the vaccine. Doses of available Td must be reserved for those with a contraindication to receiving pertussis-containing vaccines until supply issues are resolved. Tdap vaccine is an acceptable alternative to Td vaccine for the primary series and/or when a tetanus booster is indicated for wound management.

### What vaccines satisfy the tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis requirement?

Trade Name	Antigens	Year Licensed
Adacel® (Tdap)	Tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis	2005
BOOSTRIX (Tdap)	Tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis	2005
TENIVAC® (Td)	Tetanus, diphtheria	2003
TDVAX™	Tetanus, diphtheria	2018; Discontinued in 2024

### What schedule should be used to vaccinate adolescents or adults who have not received the primary series of tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine?

- Anyone seven (7) years of age or older, who has never received tetanus-containing vaccines or whose vaccination history is unknown, should receive the 3-dose series. In this situation, ACIP recommends Tdap for dose #1, followed 4 weeks later by Td or Tdap for dose #2, followed at least 6 months later by Td or Tdap for dose #3. Following the primary series, booster doses of Td or Tdap should be given every 10 years thereafter.
- [Click here for complete ACIP recommendations.](#)
- For assistance in determining the correct catch-up schedule, call the Immunization Branch on-call nurse at 919-707-5575.