



# healthyhorns

University Health Services

## Measles Immunization Exemption for Reasons of Conscience, Including Religious Beliefs

The University of Texas at Austin requires entering students to submit evidence of immunity to measles through vaccination or a positive blood test showing protective antibodies to measles. If you do not wish to be protected against measles and, instead, request an exemption for reasons of conscience, including religious beliefs, please read and complete this form.

Measles is a highly contagious disease caused by a virus. It is transmitted from person to person primarily through droplets in the air after an infected person coughs or sneezes. The measles virus can remain in the air for up to two hours after an infected person has been in the room. You can become infected by simply being in a room where an infected person has been. Up to 90% of people who come near a person infected with measles will become infected if they are not protected through vaccination.

Infected persons are contagious from four days before the onset of a rash to four days after the rash appears. Consequently, you can become infected by a person before they know they are infected. Vaccination within 72 hours may prevent disease in those who have not received two measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccines.

The MMR vaccine is safe and can prevent measles, mumps and rubella. Two doses of the MMR vaccine are about 97% effective at preventing measles; one dose is about 93% effective.

[Read more about the MMR vaccine.](#) Health insurance usually covers the cost of the MMR vaccine. If you are uninsured, UHS can help you apply for a reduced-cost vaccine through the manufacturer; however, this process may take up to two weeks. If UHS is out of network with your insurance, our staff can inform you about where to receive the vaccine.

Texas law requires healthcare providers to report every measles diagnosis to the patient's local health department. If Austin Public Health (APH) declares that a measles outbreak is occurring, APH (as the public health authority in Austin) may elect to exclude you from campus if you have not provided evidence of immunity to measles. You would be unable to attend classes until APH determines the outbreak has resolved. This could negatively affect your academics, including your grades.

### Use of this exemption form is restricted to students who are U.S. citizens or U.S. permanent residents.

Please initial each statement and sign below:

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read the information above and have chosen not to be vaccinated against measles.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand I can receive the MMR vaccine at University Health Services (UHS).

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand I can change my mind and receive the MMR vaccine at any time.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that, if there is a measles outbreak at The University of Texas at Austin, I may be excluded from campus and classes until the outbreak has resolved or until I submit evidence of measles immunity.

\_\_\_\_\_  
STUDENT NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
UT EID

\_\_\_\_\_  
STUDENT SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE OF BIRTH

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN NAME, IF STUDENT UNDER 18

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE