Health Information for New Students

Welcome to the University of Iowa!

Student Health & Wellness (SHW) is a full service campus health clinic that provides primary medical care, acute illness and chronic disease management, women’s health and mental health services, as well as wellness, sexual health, nutrition, travel, allergy injections and immunizations. We are an appointment based clinic, and we are located on the west side of campus, in the Westlawn Building. Students who register for five or more semester hours of credit are automatically assessed a Student Health & Wellness health fee in their tuition cost, which entitles them to many services at no cost. Any charges that are incurred for immunizations, lab tests, or other exams can be submitted directly to your insurance, or charges can be paid by cash or u-bill.

We pride ourselves in being experts in college health, and we hope you take advantage of our services while you are here at Iowa! We understand the importance of our work to YOUR success- keeping you healthy and providing education and resources for you to incorporate healthy habits into your future.

An important action for you to take is to review your immunization history and make sure you have received the required and recommended vaccinations before you arrive on campus. The UI requires proof of (2) Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccinations upon entry. These are generally childhood vaccinations. The first MMR must be given after your first birthday, and the two doses must be at least 28 days apart. Check with your health care provider, health department, or your high school for these records. Submit the records by email before the start of classes to: immunizations@healthcare.uiowa.edu. You will not be allowed to register for subsequent semesters if we do not have your MMR records. You will be able to see on ISIS what we have on file for you at SHW.

Many vaccines are recommended for college students. These include Varicella (Chicken Pox), Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Tdap), Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), Meningitis (MCV4), Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis A, in addition to an annual Influenza vaccine. All of these vaccines are available at SHW for a fee. If a vaccine series is started at home, we can finish it for you at SHW. We appreciate getting your full immunization record of all childhood vaccinations, so that we can enter them in your electronic medical record. This will also give you access to your immunization records through MyChart in the future, when you need them for academic programs, employment, or foreign travel. We will gladly accept documents from your health
department or medical records, or you can fill out the “General Student Requirements Form”, which is listed the Requirements & Forms page on our website. Be sure that your name and student ID is on each page of the documents you send us.

If you are a minor student (under 18) be sure to send in the needed consent forms signed by your parent or guardian, for permission to treat you and bill your insurance. You can find those forms on the Requirements & Forms page on our website, under the Minor Students (Under age 18) section.

Iowa law requires us to educate you about Meningococcal Disease (Meningitis) and the meningitis vaccine. Meningitis is an infection of the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord that is caused by a virus or bacteria. Bacterial meningitis can be severe and cause organ damage and death. There are vaccines available that can help prevent bacterial meningitis. Meningitis vaccines cannot prevent all types of the disease. Meningitis vaccine is recommended for college students living in residence halls, and for other adolescents who want to decrease their risk of contracting bacterial meningitis. This is NOT a required vaccine at the UI, but we strongly recommend it. If you received the meningitis vaccine before age 16, a booster dose is recommended. We collect information on the freshmen in residence halls who have received the meningitis vaccine, so it is helpful if you can provide documentation of your meningitis vaccine administration date(s) to us.

If you have any questions about immunizations or your records, feel free to email us at immunizations@healthcare.uiowa.edu.

We look forward to working with you during your time at Iowa and we encourage you to let us know how we can help.

Have a great first year!

Sincerely,

Jim Kellogg
Director, UI Student Health & Wellness

Kathy Wittich, MD
Medical Director, UI Student Health & Wellness