



Student Health Service

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IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION

To: All Newly Admitted International Students
From: David Braun, M.D., Student Health Service Director

The University of Iowa Student Health Service staff provides a wide array of primary medical care, including complete gynecological services, mental health services, health education activities, substance abuse programs, allergy injections, minor surgical procedures, and treatment of injuries. Students who register for five or more semester hours of credit are automatically assessed a Student Health Service consolidated health fee in their tuition cost which entitles them to many services at no cost, some services for a minimal fee, and other services for regular fees.

All international students are required to have health insurance. The United States does not have a national health insurance program. The purpose of your health insurance policy is to protect you from the high costs of medical care associated with serious accidents or illness. *The University of Iowa offers two insurance plans for students. UIGRADCare is an insurance policy for graduate students. The Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) is a policy available to all students.* By the published deadline, you must either purchase a University student health insurance policy, or furnish evidence to the University Benefits Office that you have comparable coverage through some other insurance policy. We do not recommend purchasing insurance policies which do not have a mailing address in the United States or which do not cover diagnostic tests. Please contact the Office of International Students and Scholars if you have any questions.

Bring a copy (in English) of your health history records with you, including all the immunizations you have received and the dates you received them. The first time you visit the Student Health Service, you will need to complete the Health History form in order to be treated as a patient. This form may be found on the University of Iowa Student Health Service website: www.uiowa.edu/~shs.

If you have a health problem or disability, ask your physician to send us any information that may be of assistance in providing care to you. The information that you or your physician provide is strictly for the use of our Student Health Service and will not be released to anyone else without your written permission.

Complete the *Immunization Record for International Students* that accompanies this letter and bring it with you to our Immunization/Screening Clinic held during Orientation Week. All students under the age of 18 years are required to have parental (guardian) consent before SHS can provide any medical care and/or treatment; this includes the administration of vaccines and skin tests. Please have your parent/guardian sign page 2 of the enclosed Immunization Record for International Students if you are under age 18 years.

- **All students MUST provide documentation of two measles, mumps rubella (MMR) vaccinations received after their first birthday and in 1969 or later; OR**
- Provide Student Health Service copies of original laboratory reports of MMR titres that verify immunity to these diseases.

This documentation must be in English. Students who fail to provide the required documentation will not be allowed to register for future sessions. If you cannot provide documentation for these vaccinations you may be immunized at the Student Health Service. There is a cost for this service.

- **International students and all health sciences students are required to be screened for tuberculosis (TB). This screening must be done in Iowa.** Do not have a BCG vaccination prior to your departure. If a chest x-ray is required, it also must be done in the United States. DO NOT BRING RADIOGRAPHS (X-RAYS) WITH YOU. If you have been treated for tuberculosis infection or disease, please bring a copy of your treatment report (in English) with you.
- **Students who plan to enroll in the health sciences curricula are required to have a physical examination and more extensive immunizations.** These students will be contacted by their respective departments regarding these procedures.