



ESTABLISHED 1794

Dear Tusculum Student and Parent:

Student Health Services welcomes you to Tusculum College. In order to maintain a healthy environment in which all students may be most productive, the following information regarding vaccine preventable diseases is important.

- ◆ All students born after January 1, 1957 must be vaccinated with TWO doses of Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine. According to Tennessee State Law Chapter 1200-14-1-29, effective July 1, 1998, twelfth grade students are required to provide immunization documentation in high school. If you graduated from a Tennessee high school in 1999 or after, you might have met this requirement, however, you are still required to show proof to two MMRs.
- ◆ All students are required to submit official documentation of 2 MMR immunizations upon enrollment at Tusculum College. Please return the completed Certificate of Immunization on the back of this letter directly to the Admissions Office. Be aware that you could experience a delay in the registration process if this document is not returned.

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) requires that college health providers give information to students and parents regarding Meningococcal disease, hepatitis B, and the benefits of the vaccinations.

- ◆ Common symptoms of meningitis include fever, severe headache, stiff neck, vomiting, and rash. Meningococcal disease strikes about 3000 Americans each year, leading to death in approximately 300 cases each year; with 5-15 of them being college students. Risk factors include social behavior that tends to reduce one's immune system such as lack of sleep, exposure to smoking, and excessive alcohol consumption. Recent research indicates that students living in residence halls have a six times greater chance of developing the disease than college students in general.
- ◆ Based on the slight possibility of increased risk, ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices) recommends that students and parents consider the Menomune vaccine. The vaccine is given in a one-dose injection and is available from your physician or health department. According to literature, side effects of the vaccine have been minimal.

For additional information, please use the American College Health Association's website at www.acha.org/projects_programs/meningitis/index.cfm or www.acha.org/projects_programs/meningitis/ct_st_faq.cfm.

In addition, The American College Health Association (ACHA) recommends that students be immunized against Hepatitis B and this requires a series of three injections given in a timely manner. Tetanus immunization should be updated every 10 years. While not all the individual vaccinations on the Certificate of Immunization are required, Tusculum College recommends that students receive the vaccinations as a preventative measure.

Please call (423) 636-7300, ext. 5499 if you have any questions regarding immunizations. Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Hensley".

Diane Hensley, LPN
Campus Health Educator