HEALTH FREEDOM OHIO

College & University Student Vaccine Rights & Documentation Guide

Ohio higher education | Student and family reference | Updated November 2026

1 | What Ohio law actually requires

Campus housing: meningitis and hepatitis B status disclosure

Covered institutions must collect a vaccination-status statement before a student resides in on-campus housing. The student (or parent for a student under 18) may indicate that they have or have not received meningococcal meningitis and hepatitis B vaccines. The state housing-disclosure statutes do not themselves require those vaccinations.

- Public institutions: Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3345.85.
- Nonprofit colleges and universities: ORC 1713.55.
- Certain private career schools: ORC 3332.25.
- Required status-statement content: ORC 3701.133(B); the institution may use a compliant form or secure electronic submission.

Limits on certain public-university mandates: ORC 3792.04

As amended effective October 9, 2026, a state institution of higher education may not require a vaccine lacking full U.S. FDA approval or discriminate because a person has not received that vaccine. The law excludes hospitals and other health care facilities owned, operated by, or affiliated with such institutions. It does not prohibit every vaccination requirement or apply identically to private colleges.

2 | University policies and exemptions

A university may have additional immunization requirements beyond the state housing disclosure rule. Review the current student health policy, catalog, enrollment agreement, and any program-specific rules. Do not assume the K–12 reasons-of-conscience statute (ORC 3313.671) applies to college.

- Ask for the exact policy, effective date, affected student group, deadline, and available exemption or waiver process.
- Request any medical, religious, or general exemption forms the institution actually offers; eligibility and documentation vary.
- Clinical rotations, healthcare facilities, internships, and professional programs may impose separate site requirements.
- For disability-related or religious accommodation questions, contact the institution's accessibility or civil-rights office; applicable protections depend on the facts and law.

3 | Student documentation checklist

☐ Identify whether the request is for housing disclosure, general enrollment, a specific academic program, or clinical placement.

☐ Obtain the current written policy and official forms from the institution.

☐ Complete the required housing vaccination-status disclosure accurately, including "not vaccinated" where applicable.

☐ If seeking an exemption/accommodation, submit the institution's required form and supporting materials by its deadline.

☐ Save dated copies, submission receipts, portal screenshots, and email correspondence.

☐ Request written decisions and any appeal or reconsideration procedure.

4 | Sample request for policy clarification

Subject: Request for written clarification of immunization requirement

Dear [University Office/Administrator],

I am a [prospective/current] student in [program] for [term]. Please identify the specific immunization requirement applicable to me, including the policy or legal authority, the vaccines covered, the compliance deadline, and any applicable exemption, waiver, or accommodation process. Please also clarify whether the requirement concerns vaccination, disclosure of vaccination status for campus housing, or participation in a clinical placement.

Please provide the relevant forms, the office responsible for review, and any appeal or reconsideration process. I would appreciate a written response so I can maintain accurate records.

Sincerely, [Student name] | [Student ID, if appropriate] | [Date]

5 | Sample request for an exemption or accommodation

Subject: Request for [type] exemption/accommodation under [policy]

Dear [Designated Office],

I am requesting consideration under [institution policy/form] for an exemption or accommodation concerning [specific requirement]. My request is based on [brief truthful explanation appropriate to the policy]. Please advise what documentation is necessary, the review timeline, any interim measures, and the process to appeal an adverse decision.

I understand that requirements for clinical placements or affiliated healthcare facilities may differ. Please confirm the decision and any conditions in writing.

Sincerely, [Student name] | [Student ID, if appropriate] | [Date]

Note: These are communication templates, not government-issued exemption forms. Do not substitute them for required university forms or misstate vaccination status or beliefs.

6 | If a request is denied

- Ask for the written reason, the exact policy relied upon, and the review or appeal deadline.
- Determine whether the decision came from the university or a separate clinical/placement site.
- Preserve all correspondence and consider seeking individualized legal advice where significant educational consequences are at stake.

7 | Official sources

ORC 3345.85 — Public institution housing disclosure
https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3345.85

ORC 1713.55 — Nonprofit institution housing disclosure
https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-1713.55

ORC 3332.25 — Private career school housing disclosure
https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3332.25

ORC 3701.133 — Status statement contents
https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3701.133

ORC 3792.04 — Certain public institution mandate restrictions
https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3792.04

Ohio Department of Health — College vaccine information
https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/Immunization/Recommended-Vaccines-College-Students