



Virginia State University  
Student Health Service  
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## HEPATITIS B VACCINE NOW REQUIRED

### REQUIREMENT:

Vaccination against Hepatitis B disease is required for all incoming full-time students enrolled for the first time in a four-year, public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### MANDATED BY:

The General Assembly of the State of Virginia law was approved, March 20, 2005 requires that all new incoming students be provided information about the risks of *Hepatitis B* infection and the availability and effectiveness of vaccine.

### ABOUT THE DISEASE:

Hepatitis B is caused by a virus that attacks the liver. The virus, which is called hepatitis B virus (HBV), can cause lifelong infection, cirrhosis (scarring) of the liver, liver cancer, liver failure, and death.

HBV is spread when blood or body fluids from an infected person enters the body of a person who is not infected. For example, HBV is spread through having sex with an infected person without using a condom (the efficacy of latex condoms in preventing infection with HBV is unknown, but their proper use might reduce transmission), by sharing drugs, needles, or "works" when "shooting" drugs, through needlesticks or sharps exposures on the job, or from an infected mother to her baby during birth.

Hepatitis B is not spread through food or water, sharing eating utensils, breastfeeding, hugging, kissing, coughing, sneezing or by casual contact.

### ABOUT THE VACCINE:

The vaccine is 80% to 100% effective in preventing infection or clinical hepatitis in those who receive the complete course of vaccine.

### FAILURE TO COMPLY:

Will result in inability to register for a second semester.

### EXCEPTIONS:

The legislation does allow any student, or parent or legal representative of any student under age 18, to sign a written waiver stating that he or she has received and reviewed information on Hepatitis B including the availability and effectiveness of the Hepatitis B vaccine, and has chosen not to be vaccinated (*Virginia State University assumes no liability for individuals electing not to be vaccinated*).

Additional information can be obtained on the following websites:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <http://www.cdc.gov/health/disease.htm> (select Hepatitis B disease)

American College Health Association <http://www.acha.org>.

