The safety of patients, students, faculty and staff is the highest priority in the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center (AHC). The College of Veterinary Medicine, a member of the AHC, requires Rabies vaccinations as a condition of enrollment in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program. This requirement is consistent with those of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. All students admitted to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program are required to have a rabies vaccination and to provide documentation by a health care professional of such immunization. Students declining this vaccination will not be allowed to participate in classes at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Students who have documented medical reasons not to be able to receive the vaccine (e.g., a documented medical allergy to the vaccine) must submit their records to the contracted Occupational Health Provider for review and verification. After receiving the opinion of the contracted Occupational Health Provider, the College of Veterinary Medicine will make the final determination as to whether or not a student with a valid medical contraindication to the rabies vaccine will be able to participate in classes at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

A series of three shots is required, and must be administered following CDC guidelines at Day 0, Day 7, and Day 21 or 28. Students who fail to receive the immunizations in the order outlined by the CDC will be required to submit proof of a positive titer following their immunization.

The immunizations may be administered through an on-campus rabies clinic in the fall of each year if the student wishes to take advantage of this opportunity. Alternatively, students can receive vaccination from the provider of their choice and provide documentation from that provider.

In the fall of their third year, before entering clinical rotations, students will be required to receive a titer check to determine their rabies antibody titer. Any student with a titer below the ACIP guidelines will be required to receive a booster vaccination. Records of the positive titer or of the booster vaccination must be provided to the Office of Occupational Health and Safety for compliance tracking. Failure to provide this will result in a hold being placed on their record which would bar further enrollment until they’re in compliance.

All AHC students are required to have a health clearance as a condition of enrollment and it is the student’s responsibility to achieve immunization clearance and to provide documentation of such to the Office of Occupational Health and Safety for compliance tracking. Immunization compliance will be tracked in a database by the Office of Occupational Health and Safety. Medical records will be maintained in accordance with state and federal laws by the contracted Occupational Health Provider for the University of Minnesota. The Office of Occupational Health and Safety will provide reports to the College of Veterinary Medicine regarding student compliance with this policy. Failure to provide proof of rabies vaccination and or a rabies antibody titer may result in a hold being placed on their record which would bar further enrollment until they’re in compliance.