



Global & Experiential Education



Newsletter Three: Pre-Arrival Information

Hi from GW!

This newsletter covers the below topics related to healthcare, health insurance immunizations and mandatory health information.

- **Healthcare: Before Arrival**
 - Immunizations & Mandatory Health Form
 - Submitting the Mandatory Health Form
- **Health Insurance: After Arrival**
 - Requirement
 - Application for exemption
 - Using your plan
 - Printing your insurance card
- **Upcoming Events**
 - Mandatory Orientations

With questions, please email me at sbglobal@gwu.edu. I look forward to meeting you all in August!

Cheers,

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Health Care: Before Arrival

Please note the below information can be accessed online via the [GW Medical Services website](#). On this website, you can find more detailed information on required immunizations, the health insurance requirement, waiving health insurance, and using your insurance. You can also make an appointment to visit the GW Colonial Health Center located conveniently on campus after you arrive in D.C.

COVID Vaccine Requirements

In light of the global pandemic, GW is dedicated to ensuring the safety of all faculty, staff, students, and members of the community. With that being said, anyone who plans on being in-person this fall will be required to obtain a COVID vaccine. You should have already received communication from the school regarding this requirement, however please continue to visit the [GWU Coronavirus Response Website](#) and the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for the most up-to-date information regarding vaccine requirements for the Fall 2021 semester.

Immunization Requirements

If you are under the age of 26, you are required to submit immunization records to the Colonial Health Center. You should submit records from your healthcare provider with the dates detailing when you received the required immunizations.

The [Medical Services](#) website outlines the vaccinations required, what documentation is needed, and how to submit an exemption for medical or religious reasons.

Submitting the Immunization Records

YOUR IMMUNIZATION RECORDS ARE DUE TO MEDICAL SERVICES BY AUGUST 1, 2021. You can upload your medical records [here](#). For questions, please email immunreq@gwu.edu or call 202-994-5300 option #4.

Please retain a copy of your immunizations for your records. It is each student's responsibility to ensure that their healthcare provider completes their immunization records and that it is sent to Student Health by the deadline. **Failure to submit the Immunization Records will result in a hold on your student account that prevents you from registering for classes the following semester.**

If you have any questions regarding GW Health Services please contact chcadmin@gwu.edu or you can call 202-994-5300.

Health Insurance: After Arrival

Required Coverage

All international students holding an F-1 visa are required to have and maintain health insurance coverage for the duration of their GW studies. International students holding an F-1 visa will automatically be enrolled in the GW student health insurance plan (Aetna Student Health) and the cost of that coverage will be added to your bill for tuition, fees, and other university expenses.

Health insurance is important for students because it guarantees that you will be able to obtain necessary treatment in the event that you develop a serious illness or injury. It also guarantees that you will be able to obtain preventative medical services from a doctor like immunizations and physical exams. Review [additional coverage details of GW's Student Health Insurance Plan \(SHIP\)](#) at the GW Colonial Health Center website.

Application for Exemption

Upon arrival on campus, and after registration, you will have the right to request that (1) you not be covered by the GW Student Health Insurance Plan and (2) the charge for health insurance on your university bill be removed. You may request this by completing an exemption or waiver application and by providing documents that prove you have health insurance under a different plan that satisfies certain minimum requirements.

Waivers are granted through the [Aetna Student Health](#) website. Detailed information on [waiver criteria](#) for international students in F-1 immigration status can be found online at the GW Colonial Health Center website.

If you would like additional information about the health insurance requirement, key features of the GW Student Health Insurance Plan or the application for health insurance exemption, please review this 2020-2021 [Program Brochure](#) available online at the GW Colonial Health Center website. Once the 2021-2022 brochure is released, you will be able to access it on the website.

Using Your Plan

If you do not waive GW's Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP), you will automatically be enrolled in the plan. With this plan, accessing medical care in both preventative and emergency situations is very convenient.

If you have SHIP coverage, need to see a doctor, and are within 25 miles of campus, you should first seek treatment at the Colonial Health Center – located on campus. To find providers outside of GW Student Health Service that accept your insurance, please visit [Aetna Student Health DocFind](#).

Printing Your Insurance Card

Insurance cards will not be mailed out automatically. Please contact Aetna Customer Service, 1-800-213-0579 to request a physical card after you have been enrolled.

Alternatively, all students enrolled in GW's Student Health Insurance Plan will be able to print their insurance cards by visiting [Aetna Student Health](#). For easy [step-by-step instructions on how to print your insurance card](#), please visit the Colonial Health Center website.

Mandatory Orientations for International Students

Arriving in the US:

We recommend that you arrive in the US as early as possible but no earlier than 30 days prior to your program start date listed on your I-20. Arriving as early as possible will give you time to acclimate to the US and Washington DC and adhere to all CDC and GWU quarantine and vaccination guidelines.

The mandatory orientations will provide pertinent information for international students relating to immigration and academic culture at GWSB.

(If your program is not listed below please contact your department regarding any orientations)

PROGRAM ORIENTATIONS

Master of Accountancy | Master of Science in Applied Finance | Master of Science in Business Analytics | Master of Science in Finance | Master of Human Resource Management | Master of Science in International Business | Master of Science in Information Systems Technology | Master of Science in Project Management | Master of Tourism Administration | Master of Science in Sports Management

Please contact your department for dates and times

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATIONS

Required of ALL international students studying on F-1 or J-1 visas

Tuesday, August 24th, 2021 | International Services Office, International Student Orientation (ISO) -- This event will be held in-person

Wednesday, August 25, 2021 | International Student Institute -- This event will be held virtually and you can sign up [here](#)



[Click Here For Previous Pre-Arrival Newsletters](#)

Newsletter one: [Orientation dates & housing](#)

Newsletter two: [Immigration, arrival and transportation](#)

Newsletter three: Campus health, immunizations & health insurance (today)

[Coming to Your Email Soon](#)

Newsletter four: Finances

Newsletter five: Checking in & Adjustment to the US

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