Rabies Vaccine Policy

Starting for the fall 2022 semester, students accepted into the Veterinary Technology program at Iowa Western are required to obtain pre-exposure rabies vaccines per the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

**NOTE:** Students accepted as a Prep-Veterinary Technology students are not required to show proof of vaccination until they have completed all [**additional admissions requirements**](https://1m3o0o10av2di6muq25vfnld-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/Veterinary-Technology-Program-Additional-Info.pdf) and have been accepted into the program by the Admissions Office.

**Steps after acceptance:**

Upon acceptance into the Veterinary Technology program and prior to the start of the first semester of the program, students must provide proof of immunization or adequate titer documentation for the pre-exposure rabies vaccine to the staff.

Students will come into contact with animals within their first semester of the program. Vaccinations and/or titers are mandatory for all students as it will allow them to participate in labs and clinicals.

**Information regarding the vaccine:**

Pre-exposure rabies vaccination with either the human diploid cell vaccine (HDCV) or the purified chick embryo cell vaccine (PCEC) is administered intramuscularly in the deltoid area of the arm. This 3-step vaccination series includes one injection over the course of four weeks, as directed by your medical provider. Failure to comply with the vaccination schedule or complete the series puts you at risk of incomplete protection.

**To obtain the vaccine series:**

* ***Students are required to obtain vaccinations and titers at their own expense.*** *Note: Insurance coverage varies, contact your medical provider for more information on cost.*
* Obtain a prescription for the vaccine series from your family physician. Once you obtain a prescription, contact your local pharmacy for instructions.

**Resources per the American Veterinary Medical Association:**

* Rabies, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/index.html
* What is Rabies? World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/rabies/about/en/>

For questions regarding the requirements of the rabies vaccine can be directed to the Admissions Office at [admissions@iwcc.edu](mailto:admissions@iwcc.edu) or 712-325-3200.