



Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Technology

1681 South Dayton Street • Denver, Colorado 80247

www.belrea.edu • 303-751-8700 • 800-950-8001 • Fax: 303-751-9969

Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Technology Rabies Vaccination Policy – 2023 Update for Enrolling Students

Reasoning/Justification:

- There has been an increase in the number of terrestrial mammals with rabies in the state of Colorado since 2007. Rabies is often a fatal disease, and our students are at higher risk for encountering rabies-infected animals than is the general public. This policy reflects a top priority at Bel-Rea, to provide our students with an excellent and safe education.
- According to recently updated Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and other staff members are at frequent risk and should receive the rabies pre-exposure series as well as serologic testing every 2 years to ensure antibody titers are maintained. CDC has categorized those in this group as a [Risk Category 3](#).
- AVMA (CVTEA) program accreditation requires that all veterinary technician students be vaccinated against rabies and the program must have a comprehensive rabies mitigation plan in place. This requirement became effective January 1, 2022. Details of this requirement can be found in *Appendix A – Rabies Supplement – in the AVMA CVTEA P&P manual*.
- By receiving the vaccine, students will be more ready for the workforce and to gain employment in the veterinary field.

Student Rabies Vaccination Policy:

- All students enrolling in the Program (AAS Veterinary Technology) as of January 10, 2023, will be required to submit proof of vaccination per the recommended [CDC Pre-exposure Prophylaxis \(PrEP\) for Risk Category 3](#), as listed below.
- Submitted proof of vaccination documents **must** be official records including the student's **full name, date each required dose was received and, if needed, titer check**. The following are acceptable sources:
 - Received from provider, either at time of vaccination or upon request for immunization records
 - Printed/downloaded from an authorized source, such as:
 - The enrolling student's insurance website/portal
 - The [Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment's website, where you can get a copy via the Colorado Immunization Information System Public Portal \(CIIS\)](#),

Recommended rabies vaccine dosage per CDC Risk Category 3:

- *2 doses, days 0 and 7, plus:

- Either a one-time titer check after 1 year and up to 3 years following the first 2-dose vaccination
- Or**
- 1-dose booster between 3 weeks and 3 years following first vaccine in the 2-dose vaccination

**Per CDC recommendations (published May 2022) for [Risk Category 3](https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/prevention/pre-exposure_vaccinations.html): https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/prevention/pre-exposure_vaccinations.html*

Students that have been previously vaccinated:

- Students will need to provide documentation of previous vaccinations. This must include dates and physician signatures. Proof of vaccination for enrolling students should be submitted to their Admissions Advisor.
- According to the [CDC guidelines](#), published in May 2022, veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and other staff members are at risk and should receive the rabies pre-exposure series as well as serologic testing with either a one-time titer check after 1 year and up to 3 years following the first 2-dose vaccination or a 1-dose booster between 3 weeks and 3 years following first vaccine in the 2-dose vaccination.

Estimated cost associated with this requirement, per local availability:

- The cost of each vaccination ranges \$435 to \$700 per dose, resulting in an overall cost of \$870 to \$1,400.
- Many health insurance providers cover the cost of the vaccine due to the updated CDC recommendations (published May 2022). Please contact your insurance provider for specifics on your coverage.

Student Resources and information for Rabies vaccine health insurance coverage and patient assistant programs:

- **If you currently have health insurance, we recommend starting [here](#). Important things to clarify with your insurance provider:**
 1. Call your insurance providers' customer care or patient care number (Usually located on the back of your insurance card)
 2. Say to the representative: "I will be an enrolled student at Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Technology in the Veterinary Technology Program. Per the updated CDC recommendations, Bel-Rea **requires** all enrolling students to be vaccinated against rabies with the **human pre-exposure prophylaxis** protocol series of 2 vaccinations. The CDC puts Veterinary Technicians in Risk Category 3 which recommends the 2-dose vaccination."
 3. "I have official documentation from the school that provides a link to the CDC rabies Risk Category 3 that I can email to you if you need to see it."
 4. "This is an update from previous CDC recommendations, and it was officially on their website starting in May 2022."
- **Where can I find providers that carry the Rabies Pre-Exposure Vaccine in my area?** ^(OBJ)
 - Insurance carriers usually have a designated, in-network, Travel Clinic. Please check with your plan provider.
 - [Passport Health](#) – 1-888-499-7277 – Find a Passport Health in your area
 - [Walgreens](#) - Students can request to receive the vaccine at a designated Walgreens location. Please contact your local Walgreens prior to check availability and to schedule an appointment

- **Medicaid** – Most Medicaid carriers cover the Rabies Pre-Exposure Vaccine at \$0/no cost to members.
 - Contact your Medicaid carrier for details on your plan coverage & locations
 - Colorado Medicaid Immunization Clinics – [Public Health Institute at Denver Health](#)
- **Self- Pay options** - (you can submit for reimbursement from your insurance provider. We recommend contacting your insurance provider first.)
 - Contract your local Travel Clinic in your area
 - [Passport Health](#) – 1-888-499-7277 – Find a Passport Health in your area
 - [Walgreens](#) - Students can request to receive the vaccine at a designated Walgreens location. Please contact your local Walgreens prior to check availability and to schedule an appointment
- **For eligible students Sanofi Pasteur offers a Patient Assistant Program to uninsured or underinsured patients:**
 - ★ Please note that staff & students have experienced difficulty reaching a Sanofi Rabies Vaccine Representative for help and/or questions
 - [Sanofi Pasteur's Patient Assistance Program](#) (Providing Imogam® human rabies immune globulin and Imovax® rabies vaccine, as well as other vaccines) is now administered through the Franklin Group. A healthcare professional or patient can either contact the Franklin Group directly or call the customer service team (1-800-VACCINE) who will transfer them to the Franklin Group. The Franklin Group will review the application against the eligibility criteria. For more information about the program or to request an application, please contact the Sanofi Pasteur, Inc. Patient Assistance Program (Franklin Group) at 1-866-801- 5655. Instructions and request forms are also available at the Sanofi Patient Connection website page: <https://www.sanofipatientconnection.com/>
- **Who shouldn't receive the vaccine? If you fall into this category, [Bel-Rea Vaccination Waiver/Exemption Policy](#)**
 - The [CDC recommends that certain individuals not receive the rabies vaccine](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/should-not-vacc.html): <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/should-not-vacc.html>

Process for vaccine waiver/exemption due to health concerns or religious beliefs:

- Exemptions may be allowed for religious or medical purposes only. Religious exemptions may be appropriate if the student is an adherent to a religious belief whose teachings are opposed to all immunizations. Medical exemptions may be appropriate if the student provides documentation establishing that the vaccination would endanger his or her life or health or is medically contraindicated due to other medical conditions.
- Students wishing to be exempted from vaccination must refer to the Bel-Rea Rabies Vaccination Waiver/Exemption Policy. Exemption requests must include a student Action Plan, and either the Bel-Rea Rabies Vaccination Medical Exemption Physician Form or the Bel-Rea Rabies Vaccination Religious Exemption Student Form.
 - Medical Exemptions: A completed Action Plan, and the appropriate exemption form, signed by a physician, containing a statement of justification should be submitted to the Program's Exemption Panel, prior to posted deadlines, at studenthealthservices@belrea.edu
 - Religious Exemptions: A completed Action Plan, and the appropriate exemption form should be submitted to the Program's Exemption Panel, prior to posted deadlines, at studenthealthservices@belrea.edu

- Unvaccinated students will not be able to handle any unvaccinated animals, either on campus or at off-campus locations, including internships. This may delay or inhibit the student from graduation.

More information regarding rabies in the U.S. can be obtained from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/index.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/location/usa/surveillance/index.html>



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November 16, 2022

Dear Insurance Carrier or Physician's Office,

Insured has been accepted and or is currently enrolled at Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Technology's Veterinary Technology Program. This is a 2-year Associate of Applied Science degree program designed for graduates to serve as veterinary technicians for all species of animals.

Students in Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Technology's Veterinary Technology Program provide hands-on care for many animals, including strays with unknown vaccination and medical histories.

In May of 2022 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its guidelines to include Veterinary Technicians among those considered at higher risk of rabies exposure to a *Risk Category 3*, see link below for additional details

In accordance with these guidelines, Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Technology requires incoming and or currently enrolled Veterinary Technology students to be vaccinated against rabies per the CDC's human pre-exposure prophylaxis protocol series of 2 timed vaccinations (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/rabies.html>).

CDC Recommended rabies vaccine dosage for Risk Category 3:

- *2 doses, days 0 and 7, plus:
 - Either a one-time titer check after 1 year and up to 3 years following the first 2-dose vaccination
 - Or**
 - 1-dose booster between 3 weeks and 3 years following first vaccine in the 2-dose vaccination
- * *Risk Category 3*: https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/prevention/pre-exposure_vaccinations.html

Based on this information, your insured is asking that you consider coverage for the 2-dose rabies vaccination series or if required, testing for rabies titers. Please contact me should you wish for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nolan Rucker'.

Nolan Rucker, DVM
Program Director | Dean of Education
Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Technology

o. 303.751.8700

email. studenthealthservices@belrea.edu



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Bel-Rea Rabies Vaccination Waiver/Exemption Policy

Vital information for students who elect to waive the rabies vaccine:

- AVMA (CVTEA) program accreditation requires that all veterinary technician students be vaccinated against rabies and the program must have a comprehensive rabies mitigation plan in place. This requirement became effective January 1, 2022. Details of this requirement can be found in *Appendix A – Rabies Supplement – in the AVMA CVTEA P&P manual*.
- There has been an increase in the number of terrestrial mammals with rabies in the state of Colorado since 2007. Rabies is often a fatal disease, and our students are at a higher risk for encountering rabies-infected animals than the general public. This policy reflects a top priority at Bel-Rea, to provide our students an excellent and safe education.
- According to recently updated CDC guidelines veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and other staff members are at frequent risk and should receive the rabies pre-exposure series as well as serologic testing every 2 years to ensure antibody titers are maintained. CDC has categorized those in this group as a [Risk Category 3](#).
- By receiving the vaccine, students will be more ready for the workforce and to gain employment in the veterinary field.
- Unvaccinated students will not be able to handle any unvaccinated animals, either on campus or at off-campus locations, including internships. This may delay or inhibit the student from graduation.

Bel-Rea utilizes animals throughout the program for the AVMA CVTEA Veterinary Technology Student Essential and Recommended Skills List. The animals used are Bel-Rea resident animals, student/staff owned animals and animals from various off-campus sites (veterinary clinics/hospitals, boarding facilities, animal rescues and shelters, low cost spay/neuter clinics, low-cost vaccination/general health clinics). The rabies vaccination status of our resident and student/staff animals is known, however the off-campus animals may not be vaccinated for rabies, have an unknown vaccine history or be too young to be vaccinated for rabies.

If a student is granted an exemption, that student must strictly adhere to Bel-Rea's rabies mitigation protocol. The mitigation protocol states that unvaccinated students must not have contact with animals who have not been vaccinated for rabies, have not completed the required 28-day seroconversion hold period or have an unknown vaccination history. The seroconversion period is 28 days post first rabies vaccination. There is no seroconversion hold for subsequent rabies vaccines.

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The mitigation program for unvaccinated students will include:

On-campus instruction:

*Non-vaccinated students will be responsible for procuring documented rabies vaccinated animals (including completion of the 28-day seroconversion hold following initial rabies vaccination) for performance of AVMA Essential Skills

*Rabies vaccination status must be known and recorded for every animal with which an unvaccinated student is handling

*Students must perform the hands-on tasks in the presence of a veterinarian or a certified/registered veterinary technician

*Students will be responsible for submitting video/photographic evidence that each essential skill has been performed on a live animal

*Following submission, the required skills will be evaluated by program personnel

Internship:

*Non-vaccinated students may have difficulty finding Internship sites. Interns will not be able to handle patients that are too young to be vaccinated (less than 12-16 weeks), those that are being seen for first vaccination series, those animals who have not been vaccinated and those with an unknown vaccine history. Internship sites may not want to take on the responsibility to ensure all animals handled by an intern have been vaccinated for rabies and if first vaccine, have completed the 28-day seroconversion hold. This will severely limit the amount of contact unvaccinated interns have with animal patients during internship. Internship sites may not want the added burden of documenting and recording the vaccination status of every animal a non-vaccinated intern would be required to handle. As a result, unvaccinated students may have to limit internship selection to a lab or research facility where there is no contact with dogs, cats, horses, food and fiber species.

Students wishing to request exemption must include a student Action Plan, and either the Bel-Rea Student Rabies Vaccination Medical Exemption Form or the Bel-Rea Student Rabies Vaccination Religious Exemption Form.

Action Plan: The action plan needs to include the source of rabies vaccinated animals for completion of all live animal AVMA CVTEA Essential skills. Further documentation may be required to approve the Action Plan.

The Action Plan and Exemption Form must be submitted to the Program's Exemption Panel at studenthealthservices@belrea.edu, prior to the following deadlines:

Submission Deadlines:

- For all new program applicants: **Due date is 30-days prior to enrollment deadline**



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BEL-REA RABIES VACCINATION MEDICAL EXEMPTION PHYSICIAN FORM

***This form is to be completed by health care providers or their designated staff and signed by a health care provider (physician (MD, DO), advanced practice nurse (APN), delegated physician's assistant (PA)).**

Students in Bel-Rea Institutes of Animal Technology's Veterinary Technology Program provide hands-on care for many animals, including strays with unknown vaccination and medical histories. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association,

"Veterinarians and veterinary support staff are in the frequent-risk group with regard to rabies exposure and should be administered pre-exposure rabies vaccinations, according to the recommendations of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). According to the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians' Compendium of Veterinary Standard Precautions for Zoonotic Disease Prevention in Veterinary Personnel, all staff with animal contact must be vaccinated against rabies, followed by periodic titer checks and rabies vaccine boosters, in accordance with the ACIP recommendations."

<https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Reference/Pages/Rabies-preexposure-vaccination-titers-veterinarians.aspx>

https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/prevention/pre-exposure_vaccinations.html

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/rabies.html>

In accordance with these guidelines, Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Technology requires incoming and or currently enrolled Veterinary Technology students to be vaccinated against rabies per the CDC's human pre-exposure prophylaxis protocol series of 2 timed vaccinations, days 0 and 7, plus: either a one-time titer check after 1 year and up to 3 years following the first 2-dose vaccination Or 1-dose booster between 3 weeks and 3 years following first vaccine in the 2-dose vaccination:

https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/prevention/pre-exposure_vaccinations.html

The CDC recommends that certain individuals not receive the rabies vaccine:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/should-not-vacc.html>

Exemptions may be allowed for religious or medical purposes. Medical exemptions may be appropriate if the student provides documentation establishing that the vaccination would endanger his or her life or health or is medically contraindicated due to other medical conditions.

Students wishing to be exempted from vaccination must complete this exemption form, **signed by a physician, containing a statement of justification, along with an Action Plan per the Bel-Rea Rabies Vaccination Exemption Policy.**

Student Information:

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Required Vaccine for School Entry* - Rabies Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

☐ Rabies Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) vaccine ***declined***

(Continued on page 2)

Statement of Justification (attached or completed below):

[illegible]

The physical condition of the above-named student is such that vaccinations would endanger their life or health or is medically contraindicated due to other medical conditions. The information I have provided on this form is complete and accurate.

REQUIRED Signature:_____ **Date:** _____

Physician (MD, DO), Advanced Practice Nurse (APN), or Physician Assistant (authorized pursuant to section 12-240-107 (6), C.R.S.)

REQUIRED: _____ **Professional License Number:** _____
(State/Territory)



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BEL-REA RABIES VACCINATION RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION FORM

Students in Bel-Rea Institutes of Animal Technology's Veterinary Technology Program provide hands-on care for many animals, including strays with unknown vaccination and medical histories. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association,

"Veterinarians and veterinary support staff are in the frequent-risk group with regard to rabies exposure and should be administered pre-exposure rabies vaccinations, according to the recommendations of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). According to the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians' Compendium of Veterinary Standard Precautions for Zoonotic Disease Prevention in Veterinary Personnel, all staff with animal contact must be vaccinated against rabies, followed by periodic titer checks and rabies vaccine boosters, in accordance with the ACIP recommendations."

<https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Reference/Pages/Rabies-preexposure-vaccination-titers-veterinarians.aspx>

https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/prevention/pre-exposure_vaccinations.html

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/rabies.html>

In accordance with these guidelines, Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Technology requires incoming and or currently enrolled Veterinary Technology students to be vaccinated against rabies per the CDC's human pre-exposure prophylaxis protocol series of 2 timed vaccinations, days 0 and 7, plus: either a one-time titer check after 1 year and up to 3 years following the first 2-dose vaccination Or 1-dose booster between 3 weeks and 3 years following first vaccine in the 2-dose vaccination:

https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/prevention/pre-exposure_vaccinations.html

The CDC recommends that certain individuals not receive the rabies vaccine:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/should-not-vacc.html>

Exemptions may be allowed for religious or medical purposes only. Religious exemptions may be appropriate if the student is an adherent to a religious belief whose teachings are opposed to all immunizations.

Students wishing to be exempted from vaccination must complete this exemption form, **containing a statement of justification, along with an Action Plan per the Bel-Rea Rabies Vaccination Exemption Policy.**

Student Information:

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Required Vaccine for School Entry* - Rabies Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

☐ Rabies Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) vaccine ***declined***

(Continued on page 2)

Statement of Justification (attached or completed below):

Statement of Exemption:

I am claiming a religious exemption from the Rabies Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). The information provided on this form is complete and accurate. I can review evidence-based information about the Rabies Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) at CDC Rabies Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP): https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/prevention/pre-exposure_vaccinations.html

REQUIRED Signature: _____ **Date:** _____