

On September 9, 2022 NYS Governor Kathy Hochel declared polio a state disaster emergency for the entire state. Polio is a dangerous and highly infectious disease that can result in paralysis or death. After we thought it was gone, it has reappeared in several downstate counties and in New York City, due to low vaccination rates. Here at Union College, we matriculate many students from the downstate areas involved and think that the reappearance of Polio in our community is very possible.

Polio vaccination is a requirement for school attendance in the United States. New York State allows medical exemptions to vaccination. Nonmedical exemptions are no longer allowed. Union College has a very small number of students with an exemption to all vaccines. Thus, the majority of our student body has immunity to polio. Any students who are concerned that they are not vaccinated should reach out to Wicker Wellness Center at 518-388-6120 or uhealthcenter@union.edu. We can assist in determining your vaccination status and assisting with immunization if desired.