



Department of Health Services

UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY
PATTEN HALL ★ KINGS POINT, NY ★ 11024-1699

Phone: 516-726-5680 ★ Fax: 516-773-5436 ★ Email: medical@usmma.edu

WELCOME USMMA CLASS OF 2028

Dear Parents/Guardians and Plebe Candidates:

PLEASE READ THIS LETTER IN ITS ENTIRETY!

Congratulations on your son's or daughter's acceptance into the United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) Class of 2028! As he/she prepares for admittance, several important health-related tasks must be attended to prior to the scheduled Indoctrination Day of July 05, 2024. Please read this correspondence carefully, perform all required tasks and supply the necessary documentation. Please submit all required health documents directly to the Academy's Department of Health Services (DHS) using the enclosed pre-addressed envelopes **no later** than **Friday, 07 June 2024**.

PRE-ADMISSION HEALTH DOCUMENTATION

Please refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website for the latest guidance on Respiratory Illnesses at <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/index.html>. If you have any questions feel free to call Medical at 516.726.5680 Option #1.

Prior to arriving at the Academy, all Plebe Candidates must complete and return to the Department of Health Services a series of important health documents. These documents must be downloaded directly from our website using the following instructions:

1. Go to www.usmma.edu
2. Click on "[Regimental Life](#)"
3. Scroll down to "IN THIS SECTION" and click on "[Health Services](#)"
4. Click on "[Related Health Services Documents](#)"

All forms must be downloaded from our website, printed, completed by the Plebe Candidate then returned to USMMA no later than Friday, 07 June 2024. A pre-labeled, pre-addressed FedEx Envelope is provided for your convenience along with a plain unaddressed envelope labeled "Department of Health Services, Confidential – to be opened by Department of Health Services only". Please insert all completed forms into the plain, labeled envelope, then seal & insert that envelope into the FedEx envelope, seal the FedEx Envelope and provide it to your nearest FedEx pickup location. The forms referenced for return are as follows:

1. **Health Documents Checklist:** This form does not need to be returned; this form is to assist the candidate.
2. **Dental Documents Checklist:** This form does not need to be returned; this form is to assist the candidate.
3. **Authorization to Provide Health Services to Minors:** If box #1 is checked, a parent or legal guardian must sign this form to provide authorization for necessary medical and dental care to Midshipmen who are minors. The form authorizes the Academy's Chief Medical Officer, Dental Officer, and Midshipmen Counseling and Personal Development providers to perform the required treatment services at the Department of Health Services. In addition, it authorizes care to be provided as needed by other health care providers.
4. **Pre-Admission Immunization Record Summary:** USMMA **requires** incoming students to provide proof of vaccination against a variety of diseases. The Academy, like most other institutions of higher education, **requires** certain vaccinations to protect the health and safety of the student body, particularly when students live, eat, study, and participate in training activities including shipping assignments & Indoctrination in close proximity to each other. Additionally, time aboard ships with a necessary number of sea days is a prescribed part of training activities to successfully complete the Academy's course of study and graduate. Most available shipping company assignments require vaccinations. The Academy cannot guarantee that you will not travel to countries with an increased risk of exposure. Also, as merchant mariners frequently change ship assignments, the Academy cannot guarantee that you will not be exposed to mariners who were recently in countries where endemic diseases are prevalent. Finally, many carriers require some vaccine boosters and the Academy cannot guarantee that you will not be placed on one of these carriers during Sea Year. The Pre-Admission Immunization Record Summary must be completed by your family physician and shall become part of your Academy health record. This documentation is necessary for the medical staff to confirm that Plebe Candidates can safely participate in all USMMA activities.

The following primary and booster immunizations **must** be administered and documented **prior** to arrival at the Academy (unless otherwise specified):

- A. Diphtheria - Tetanus - acellular Pertussis (DTaP) and a booster dose of Tdap (Tetanus - Diphtheria - acellular Pertussis - *within ten (10) years*)**
- B. Measles - Mumps - Rubella (M.M.R.) – 2 doses**
- C. Chicken Pox / Varicella – 2 doses** (*This vaccine is not required if you can present documentation from a physician of an antibody titer or if a physician can document the history of Chicken Pox.*)
- D. Meningococcal Vaccine (2 doses)**
- E. Hepatitis A (2 doses)**
- F. Hepatitis B (3 doses)**
- G. Polio (Inactivated Polio Vaccine or Oral Polio Vaccine) (3-4 dose series)**
Adult booster is required to be administered at the Academy prior to sea duty.
- H. Flu (Influenza)** is highly recommended prior to arrival. Otherwise, it is required to be administered at the Academy prior to sea duty. **(1 dose annually)**
- I. Typhoid IM** is required to be administered at the Academy prior to sea duty. **(1 dose, booster required every two (2) years)**

- J. **Yellow Fever** is required to be administered at the Academy prior to sea duty. (1 dose)
- K. **Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)** is a highly recommended but not required vaccine. A booster dose is highly recommended but not required. (number of doses depends on vaccine type – consult your primary physician)
- L. **Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV)** is a highly recommended but not required vaccine. **(2-3 dose series)**
- M. **Serogroup B Meningococcal (MenB)** is a highly recommended but not required vaccine. **(2-3 dose series)**

Questions regarding immunizations A through M listed above, or any other immunization related questions may be directed to our Medical Department by calling 516.726.5680, option #1, or you can email your questions to medical@usmma.edu.

- 5. **Record of Dental Examination for Third Molar Status and Assumption of Financial Responsibility for Third Molar Extraction/Oral Surgery/Associated Costs:** This form should be completed by a parent or legal guardian of a Plebe Candidate, with the assistance of a licensed dental provider, and returned to the Academy’s Dental Service. The recommendation by the Academy’s Dental Service is that third molars (wisdom teeth) be removed at least **6 weeks** prior to Indoctrination if indicated. The form certifies that either the wisdom teeth have been removed/do not exist and the parent/legal guardian acknowledges financial responsibility for removal if these teeth are still present and become symptomatic or are deemed to be a potential threat for infection by the Academy’s Dental Officer.
- 6. **Respiratory Protection Medical Questionnaire Form:** Pulmonary Function Testing (PFT) will be administered early in Indoctrination. Please complete this 3-page questionnaire carefully as a pre-requisite to your PFT.
- 7. **Emergency Contact Form:** This form is to allow the USMMA Department of Health Services to contact parents/guardians in case of an emergency.
- 8. **PLEBE CANDIDATE acknowledgement and agreement to comply with welcome letter requirements:** Please read, sign and date the last page of this document and return it with all the aforementioned forms.

HEALTHCARE AND INSURANCE COVERAGE NEEDS

HEALTHCARE:

Midshipmen actively enrolled in academic classes are provided access, on site, to limited medical and dental care available through the Academy’s Department of Health Services located in the Patten Hall Building. Limited medical and dental care is defined by the level of clinical skills available on site at USMMA’s DHS to support Midshipmen for all their basic health related requirements for successful graduation from the program. This includes:

- ✓ On site treatment for non-emergent illnesses or injuries.
- ✓ On site oral evaluations, treatment & basic hygiene for non-emergent dental care.
- ✓ Interventional counseling for mental health issues in support of maintaining the mental health of enrolled Midshipmen.

- ✓ Provision of routine medical & dental examinations as required by shipping companies for placement in training assignments required to satisfy the 365 days of Sea Duty training associated with graduation.
- ✓ Provision of routine United States Coast Guard examinations for licensing and obtaining Merchant Mariner Credentials for sea duty assignment required for fulfillment of graduation requirements.
- ✓ Routine Medical and Dental examinations for the purposes of meeting graduation commissioning requirements into the United States Navy Reserves Strategic Sealift Officer Program (USNRSSO).

There are exceptions which would make all expenses for the above care solely the responsibility of Midshipmen on a personal out of pocket basis. Generally, these exceptions are associated with injury, illness or diagnosis resulting from a non-disclosed condition, or any medical condition resulting from activity incongruent with Academy regulations & policies. These medical needs requiring care that cannot be provided on site at the Department of Health Services will require the use of private insurance.

The following are a few examples for when healthcare needs will exceed care available on site at USMMA DHS and require the use of services through private insurance:

- any and all medical, dental and mental health care which requires intervention by health care providers not on site at USMMA.
- medical management of undisclosed health conditions;
- elective medical examination and immunizations (e.g., pre-employment physicals, certain military service program medical clearances, and immunizations);
- surgical interventions of any type;
- cosmetic surgery, contact lens or eyeglasses examinations, for the prescription or fitting thereof;
- hearing aids and examinations for the prescription or fitting thereof;
- prescriptions and associated medical laboratory tests for treatment of dermatological conditions (e.g., acne);
- extraction of third molars (wisdom teeth);
- dental root canal treatment;
- dental implants and crowns;
- orthodontic care;
- routine dental care obtained outside of USMMA Dental Services;
- substance use disorders; expenses incurred for treatment subsequent to or resulting from substance use (including alcohol);
- medical care of any type associated with participation in an act in violation of Midshipmen Regulations or Academy Policy;
- prenatal care or maternity benefits or any condition arising from or out of pregnancy;

INSURANCE:

For health care related matters that go beyond the USMMA on site healthcare as described in the previous paragraphs, Midshipmen may require care from local health care providers on an outpatient and inpatient basis. Higher levels of care needs are provided by local health care providers, located less than 5 miles from the Academy. A multitude of various healthcare providers are also located in the surrounding community who specialize in many common specialty care needs. **Midshipmen are responsible for costs related to care that goes beyond the services available onsite at USMMA through Department of Health Services.**

Uncovered medical expenses, such as care needs that exceed the services offered onsite USMMA at DHS do occur and can be very costly if there is no medical insurance in place. For this reason, **all USMMA Plebe Candidates and Midshipmen must have a valid and current primary healthcare insurance policy in effect while attending USMMA that meets all USMMA requirements.**

Plebe Candidates and Midshipmen are **REQUIRED** to purchase the Academy sponsored Student Health Insurance Policy (SHIP), which meets all the minimum coverage requirements established by USMMA. **HOWEVER**, Plebe Candidates and Midshipmen may waive this requirement through any **one** of the following means:

1. Through the use of an existing insurance plan (e.g. a family plan, a “self and spouse plan” or self-only plan) that covers the candidate or midshipman; provided that the policy meets the minimum coverage, requirements established by USMMA.
2. If there is no existing health insurance coverage, obtain a qualifying Student Health Insurance Plan from an insurance carrier of his/her choice providing it meets **ALL** minimum coverage requirements established by USMMA for health insurance coverage.

If options #1 & #2 above are not possible, Midshipmen & Candidates must purchase the qualifying Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) through The Academy-sponsored provider.

More information is available by visiting [USMMA Health Services](#).

There will be two insurance enrollment periods for Plebe Candidates. First, proof of insurance coverage must be secured for Plebe Candidates for a six-month coverage period from 01 July 2024 through 31 December 2024. Then, all plebe candidates will participate in another open enrollment on or about **September 2024** for a new one-year coverage period that will run from 1 January 2024 through 31 December 2024. In order to **secure proof of your initial six-month coverage**, you must **take action** by completing **one** of the following two steps:

1. IF YOU CURRENTLY HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE AS DESCRIBED IN OPTIONS #1 OR #2 ABOVE:

You are required to complete the Student Health Insurance Waiver Form as follows:

- Visit www.mystudentmedical.com
- Select “US Merchant Marine Academy” from the drop down
- Click “Submit Waiver”
- Complete the Student Health Insurance Waiver Form
- **PLEASE NOTE** where student ID number is requested, type in the numbers “**072024**” plus two-digit month and two-digit day of your birth date (for example, if your birthday is January 4th, enter **0720240104**).

In order to confirm that a health insurance policy meets USMMA requirements USMMA recommends that you contact your insurance provider to confirm your answers to the following questions asked on the aforementioned Student Health Insurance Waiver Form:

- a. Will your current coverage remain in effect through **December 31, 2024**?
- b. Is your insurance company headquartered/operated in the United States with a US Claims address and Customer Service phone number?
- c. Does your current plan provide both emergency and non-emergency benefits for medical and mental health treatment?
- d. Does your current plan provide inpatient hospitalization, outpatient physician visits, laboratory services, radiology and outpatient mental health benefits? **Coverage limited to Emergency care does not satisfy this requirement.**
- e. Does your plan have hospitals and providers within 10 miles of U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, 300 Steamboat Road in the County of Nassau, New York, for non-emergency care?
- f. Does your plan provide coverage in all 50 states and internationally?

- g. Does your coverage comply with all Federal and New York State regulations for student health insurance?

Please note that you **cannot** waive the USMMA insurance plan if you have answered “NO” to items a – g above, or have an HMO or Tricare Prime, or Self-Pay. Tricare Select is accepted.

OR

2. IF INSURANCE WAIVER OPTIONS (#1 AND #2) DO NOT APPLY & YOU DO NOT HAVE YOUR OWN HEALTH INSURANCE THAT MEETS THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS OR YOUR WAIVER IS DENIED:

If you do not have your own health insurance through your own means that meets the USMMA requirements, then you are **required** to purchase/enroll in the USMMA sponsored plan by completing the enrollment process. To enroll in the USMMA Sponsored Health Insurance Plan:

- Visit www.mystudentmedical.com
- Select “US Merchant Marine Academy”
- Click on “Enrollment Form”
- Complete the Student Enrollment Form
- **PLEASE NOTE** where student ID number is requested, type in the numbers “**072024**” plus two-digit month and two-digit day of your birth date (for example, if your birthday is January 4th, enter **0720240104**).

Click on the plan brochure, which highlights the key benefits of the student insurance plan. The cost for the policy will be posted on the above website.

Failure to demonstrate having and maintaining a valid and current primary health insurance plan that meets USMMA requirements either by completing a waiver or enrolling in the USMMA sponsored plan by June 07, 2024 will result in being automatically enrolled in the USMMA SHIP and billed accordingly.

Please remember that should you choose to waive the USMMA sponsored Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) in favor of your own health insurance coverage, it is your responsibility to contact your insurance carrier and make sure all of the USMMA minimum requirements are met.

Please be sure to provide your Plebe Candidate with a copy of his/her insurance identification card and instruct them to have it in their possession at all times. It is extremely important to provide a copy of the Plebe Candidate’s insurance card (both sides) indicating the current health insurance plan, which meets mandatory USMMA requirements for health insurance coverage, to the Department of Health Services. Please provide a copy of the insurance card, front & back along with all pre-admission health documents using the pre-addressed postage paid envelopes. If you purchased USMMA SHIP insurance, a copy of your insurance card will be provided to the Department of Health Services. Although not required for attendance at USMMA, dental insurance is strongly encouraged. If you carry any optional dental insurance, please provide a copy of that information (both sides) as well.

If you have any questions about your coverage or the processing of a waiver, please contact our plan administrator prior to submitting your information. Our insurance plan administrator is The Allen J. Flood Companies, Inc. and all coverage questions should be directed to them at 800.734.9326 or email at USMMA@ajfusa.com. Information about the plan benefits, limitations and exclusions is available at www.mystudentmedical.com, select “US Merchant Marine Academy.” You may also send questions to medical@usmma.edu.

FINANCIAL AID & HEALTH INSURANCE:

Any Plebe Candidate or Midshipman who is not covered under a medical insurance plan and is unable to pay the premium for the SHIP is eligible to apply for and accept financial aid to cover the cost of the SHIP premiums. If you did not request financial aid but feel that this cost requires you to do so, please contact the Financial Aid Office for assistance in applying for Financial Aid for the 2024/2025 academic year. The contact information is as follows:

Lauri D'Ambra
Financial Aid Administrator – Office of Financial Aid
Phone - (516) 726-5638
Email: DAmbraL@USMMA.EDU
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 7:30am-6:00pm

If you have already requested financial aid through the USMMA's Financial Aid Office, your son's or daughter's cost of attendance will be revised to reflect this increased cost, and an updated financial aid Award Letter will be sent to you. If you have not yet received an Award Letter, then the one that is forthcoming will include the supplemental plan cost.

USMMA DEPARTMENT OF DENTAL SERVICES

The Department of Health Services is pleased to provide general dental care onsite at the USMMA Department of Dental Services. The Dental Officer leads the dental team, with the assistance of a Registered Dental Hygienist, and a Dental Assistant. Excellent dental facilities for off-site care are readily available nearby in Nassau County.

Dental Insurance is optional but strongly encouraged since referrals to dentists or dental specialists (e.g., oral surgeon, endodontist) outside of the USMMA Department of Dental Services will require the use of private dental insurance or will be an out-of-pocket personal expense. As indicated in DoDMERB, active orthodontic treatment (braces) is not allowed. Only removable orthodontic appliances (e.g., retainers, Invisalign®) are permitted. As the Department of Dental Services does not have an orthodontist, replacement of broken appliances will require outside treatment at the Plebe Candidate's expense, including all associated costs.

Plebe Candidates who require prescription medications in the course of dental care are required to use their medical insurance prescription benefits or pay out-of-pocket.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING DISQUALIFYING DENTAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING THIRD MOLARS/WISDOM TEETH

The Academy expects Plebe Candidates will arrive at USMMA with no potentially disqualifying dental conditions. A common example of a disqualifying dental condition includes the presence of Third Molars (wisdom teeth), either erupted or impacted, that cannot be maintained in a good state of health. You must be able to achieve fully deployable status (DoD Class 1 or 2) and be ready for sea duty within 11 to 16 months of arrival at USMMA, and not have a DoD Class 3 dental status hold due to a disqualifying dental condition, including but not limited to your third molars. Class 3 dental status is considered any condition that may prevent you from performing optimally and could become emergent within 12 months. These conditions include the following:

- infections,
- caries / restorations,
- missing teeth,
- periodontal conditions,

- oral surgery (unerupted, partially erupted, malposed teeth with historical, clinical, or radiographic signs or symptoms or pathosis that are recommended for removal),
- and other disorders or pain dysfunction requiring active treatment.

RECORD OF DENTAL EXAMINATION FOR THIRD MOLAR STATUS, AND ASSUMPTION OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIRD MOLAR EXTRACTION/ORAL SURGERY/ASSOCIATED COSTS:

These forms must be completed by a parent or legal guardian of a Plebe Candidate, with the assistance of a licensed dental provider, and returned to the USMMA Department of Dental Services. Third molars (wisdom teeth) should be removed at least **6 weeks** prior to indoctrination if indicated. The form certifies that either the wisdom teeth have been removed/do not exist or the parent/legal guardian acknowledges financial responsibility for removal if required for sea duty clearance because these teeth are still present and have become symptomatic or are deemed to be a potential threat for infection during sea duty by the Academy's Dental Officer.

IMPACT OF A DISQUALIFYING DENTAL CONDITION ON INDOCTRINATION:

Any remediation of a disqualifying dental condition should be done sufficiently in advance of Indoctrination to allow adequate time for healing. Specifically, we advise that tooth removal be completed a minimum of 6 weeks prior to Indoctrination. Failure to follow these guidelines could impact on a Plebe Candidate's ability to participate in Indoctrination. Plebe Candidates who do not complete Indoctrination will be returned home to rejoin USMMA the following year assuming there are no other disqualifying conditions.

IMPACT OF A DISQUALIFYING DENTAL CONDITION ON SEA DUTY:

DoD Class 3 status disqualifies you from deployment for sea duty, thus severely impacting your ability to meet academic standards. During your two sea duty deployments you will be on a ship (surface or submarine) with minimal or no medical/dental care services for prolonged periods of time, 4 months and 8 months respectively. The above treatment course is designed to accommodate the realities of life on a ship on the high seas. Should you develop a condition that requires emergent dental care, you will not have the choice of services/providers that you normally would have on/around campus at USMMA and/or at home. Correction of all dental defects and removal of wisdom teeth, when indicated, before arriving at the Academy will maximize your dental health, prevent lost academic time, minimize any dental conditions affecting sea duty clearance and go a long way toward ensuring your success as a USMMA Midshipman. If your own dentist has recommended you have your wisdom teeth removed, we strongly suggest you follow their advice. It is also HIGHLY recommended that any wisdom teeth, which are symptomatic or partially erupted, in jaws that are not large enough to accommodate them, be removed at least 6 weeks prior to admission to allow time for healing and to prevent any potential future problem from interfering with your academic studies, regimental training, and sea duty clearance.

IMPACT OF A DISQUALIFYING DENTAL CONDITION ON STRATEGIC SEALIFT OFFICER U.S. NAVY RESERVE PROGRAM (SSO – USNR):

Graduation from the USMMA and accession into the SSO USNR Program requires a Class 1 or Class 2 dental clearance. The Department of Defense Bureau of Surgery and Medicine (BUMED) certifies Physically Qualified (PQ) status, and may issue conditional Class 3 dental clearance waivers when required. USMMA Department of Health Services will coordinate your treatment plan and manage BUMED waivers as you progress through your career as a USMMA Midshipman.

ACTION REQUIRED – WHAT TO DO NEXT:

We encourage you to visit your family dentist at your earliest convenience and have him/her complete the enclosed administrative packet. Use the postage-paid, addressed envelope to mail us:

1. a copy of dental examination performed by your dentist within the past twelve months,
2. the signed and completed Record of Dental Examination For Third Molar Status recording sheet, filled out by your dentist and, if indicated, the Assumption of Financial Responsibility For Third Molar Extraction/Oral Surgery/Associated Costs form signed by the Parent/Guardian,
3. a diagnostic panoramic radiograph taken within the past 12 months, and
4. a recent (within 12 months) set of diagnostic bite-wing radiographs. Make sure all radiographs and forms are correctly labeled with your name and date of birth.

The above items will become part of your permanent patient chart.

Please attempt to complete and mail the packet as soon as possible to provide adequate time for you to address any conditions that may be present. Mail all documents prior to Indoctrination to the following address:

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
Department of Health Services
Patten Hall
300 Steamboat Road
Kings Point, New York 11024-1699

The USMMA's Department of Dental Services' overall goal is to facilitate YOUR success as you prepare to enter USMMA and begin your career as a credentialed Merchant Mariner. If you have questions or concerns regarding any potentially disqualifying dental condition, please feel free to contact the USMMA Dental Officer at (516) 726-5680, Option #2, for assistance.

CORRECTIVE LENSES FOR PLEBE CANDIDATES DURING INDOCTRINATION

Plebe Candidates, who wear contact lenses, are **REQUIRED to bring eyeglasses** (we recommend two pairs) for Indoctrination. The training environment is not conducive to contact lens wear therefore the use of contact lenses is prohibited. Candidates who wear glasses during Indoctrination are less likely to experience problems such as damage to their eye(s), eyesight, lost, torn and/or scratched contact lenses.

MEDICATION POLICY FOR PLEBE CANDIDATES DURING INDOCTRINATION

To ensure the safety and well-being of each candidate, all Plebe Candidates are instructed **NOT** to bring any **over-the-counter** medications with them unless accompanied by a note from the prescribing physician. The note should indicate the medication, dose and reason it is required. Any over the counter medications brought without appropriate documentation will be collected from all Plebe Candidates upon their arrival. This includes, but is not limited to, any pain medication (e.g. Tylenol, Aleve, Advil, aspirin); allergy medications, antihistamine, decongestants, herbal supplements or remedies, vitamins and nutritional or sports supplements. Upon completion of Indoctrination, Plebe Candidates will be instructed to report to

DHS to pick up any previously collected medication. Should an over-the counter medication become necessary for a Plebe Candidate during Indoctrination, it will be made available at no cost providing it is part of our inventory.

Plebe Candidates should **NOT** bring any **prescription medications** with them **unless** the medication is specifically prescribed for them. There must be an accompanying note from the prescribing physician or dentist stating the reason why the medication was prescribed. These medications will be collected, identified and be recorded in the Candidate's health record before being returned. The Chief Medical Officer will only authorize the return of prescription medications that would not jeopardize the overall health of the Plebe Candidate, or otherwise limit and/or inhibit his/her rigorous training requirements. (e.g. medications associated with increased risk of conditions such as sun sensitivity, or heat related illnesses).

Any medication that is not in its original container or is unlabeled will be collected and disposed of by the Academy's Department of Health Services without exception.

HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ACADEMY

Midshipmen enrolled at the Academy are eligible to receive basic health care at USMMA DHS located in Patten Hall. DHS is open Monday thru Fridays except holidays from 0700 to 1530. During the Indoctrination period in July, DHS extends hours of operations.

SICK CALL DURING INDOCTRINATION:

Immediately following breakfast each morning, Plebe Candidates are given the opportunity to report any need for medical care or intervention. At that time, Plebe Candidates in formation are triaged by a qualified Department of Health Services healthcare provider who determines if the Plebe Candidate requires immediate attention or can be given a specific appointment time for later in the day.

AFTER HOURS CARE DURING INDOCTRINATION:

In the event of injury or illness when the Department of Health Services is closed, the USMMA DHS Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Dispatcher is notified. The EMS Dispatcher will coordinate the appropriate response.

Any care that is not of an emergent nature is to be addressed during scheduled medical appointments or sick call as needed.

DHS CARE AFTER COMPLETION OF INDOCTRINATION:

During the Academic Year after Indoctrination ends, DHS operational hours are 0700 to 1530, Monday through Friday. Midshipmen may choose to be seen as "walk-in" patients during morning "Sick Call" (0700 to 0900) or may schedule routine medical, dental or counseling appointments throughout the clinic day. Healthcare services available at DHS include: routine Sea Year physical assessments; medical laboratory procedures; immunizations required for Sea Duty (see "Pre Admission Health Requirements & Documentation"); treatment of routine illnesses; prescribing medications (subject to health insurance coverage); providing routine over-the-counter medications and pharmaceutical supplies; nutrition counseling; public health & hygiene education; annual oral evaluations, general dentistry and dental hygiene; and individual or group counseling sessions for maintaining personal wellness. Midshipmen who require emergent health care during, or after, regular clinic hours will be transported by the USMMA DHS Emergency Medical Services to the nearest emergency room.

If you have any questions regarding these instructions, please contact the Academy's Department of Health Services using any of the following options:

1. Our primary phone number is (516) 726-5680. **(Please listen carefully to each option so you can select from our menu and reach a person in the department you wish to speak with.)**
2. Our facsimile number is (516) 773-5436.
3. Our email is medical@usmma.edu.
4. Please address all written correspondence to:

**United States Merchant Marine Academy
Department of Health Services
Patten Hall
300 Steamboat Road
Kings Point, New York 11024-1699**

Congratulations again and we look forward to seeing you at Indoctrination! Best wishes for your success.

Sincerely,



Rick Sager, B.S., M.P.S.
Director,
Department of Health Services

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PLEBE CANDIDATE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT TO COMPLY WITH WELCOME LETTER REQUIREMENTS:

By my signature below, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to the conditions as defined in the Welcome Letter that I received. I also understand that if I have incurred any new injuries or changes in my medical status since completing my physical with the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DODMERB) that I shall notify DODMERB of these changes prior to my arrival at USMMA on 5 July 2024.

Signature of Plebe Candidate Date

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian for Minors Date

Print Name

Print Name Relationship to Plebe Candidate