

Policy on Immunization and Tuberculosis Testing

I. PURPOSE

Health care professionals, including medical students-in-training, are at higher risk than the general population for acquiring communicable diseases. In order to protect themselves, their colleagues and patients, students must provide evidence of immunization or immunity against these diseases.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- Medical students

III. POLICY

Immunizations

All students are required to have the immunizations that are specified in the Procedure on Immunization and Tuberculosis Testing or a positive titer, prior to matriculation (i.e., first day of class in Introduction to Being a Physician).

Tuberculosis Testing

All students are required to undergo testing for tuberculosis prior to matriculation and annually, as described in the Procedure on Immunization and Tuberculosis Testing.

Students are required to update their student immunization record annually.

Exemptions

Students may be exempted from vaccination requirements in the following cases:

1. If they object on the grounds that administration of immunizing agents conflicts with their religious practices (unless the Department of Health has declared an emergency or an epidemic of disease).
2. If they present a statement from a licensed physician which states that their physical condition is such that administration of one or more of the required immunizing agents would be detrimental to their health. If an exemption is approved, the UPSOM cannot guarantee that our affiliated hospitals and clinics will allow the student to participate in patient care at these affiliated sites.

IV. POLICY AUTHOR(S)

- Office of Student Affairs

V. RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Procedure on Immunization and Tuberculosis Testing

VI. REFERENCES

LCME Element 12.7: Immunization Requirements and Monitoring. A medical school follows accepted guidelines in determining immunization requirements for its medical students and monitors students' compliance with those requirements.

VII. APPROVALS

Education Policy Council March 21, 2018

Dean, School of Medicine, March 31, 2018

Procedure on Immunization and Tuberculosis Testing:

Required at Matriculation:

- Measles, Mumps, Rubella
 - 2 doses of the combined MMR vaccine
 - OR 2 Measles, 2 Mumps, 1 Rubella vaccinations
 - OR positive titers demonstrating immunity to Measles, Mumps, and Rubella
 - If BOTH evidence of vaccination and titer data are submitted, and the titers do not demonstrate immunity, the student will be required to re-immunize against Measles, Mumps, and Rubella
- Varicella (Chickenpox)
 - 2 doses of Varicella vaccine.
 - OR a positive titer demonstrating immunity
 - NOT ACCEPTED: Documented history of having had chickenpox – a titer is required in that case.
 - If BOTH evidence of vaccination and titer data are submitted, and the titers do not demonstrate immunity, the student will be required to re-immunize against Varicella
- Hepatitis B
 - 3 doses of Hep B vaccine AND a Quantitative Surface Antibody titer demonstrating adequate immunity.
 - IF THE TITER IS NEGATIVE: Students must get additional vaccinations to provide a positive titer. This second vaccination series can take several months to complete, so know your status and plan ahead.
- Tdap Adult
 - The Tdap vaccination on record must be within the past 10 years.

- TB Screening
 - PPD or Quantiferon TB Gold test (preferred for all, especially those previously vaccinated with BCG), dated after May 1st of the year of matriculation.
 - IF YOU HAVE A HISTORY OF TB, OR OF POSITIVE PPD RESULTS, OR AN ALLERGIC REACTION TO THE MANTOUX SOLUTION, you should not get PPD tests. Instead, a clear chest x-ray from within three (3) months of the matriculation date should be submitted. Also, an annual symptom questionnaire will be required to be submitted to Student Affairs. If you have any symptoms described in the questionnaire, follow the instructions about further examination.

Required Annually throughout Enrollment in Medical School:

- TB Symptom Questionnaire – For those with a history of TB or a prior positive test o The TB symptom questionnaire will need to be completed and submitted to Student Affairs annually.
 - Follow-up on any suspected TB symptoms with a medical professional immediately.
- TB Screening
 - PPD or Quantiferon TB Gold test ((preferred for all, especially those previously vaccinated with BCG),), dated after May 1st of the year of matriculation.
 - IF YOU HAVE A HISTORY OF TB, OR OF POSITIVE PPD RESULTS, OR AN ALLERGIC REACTION TO THE MANTOUX SOLUTION, you should not get PPD tests. Instead, a clear chest x-ray from within three (3) months of the matriculation date should be submitted. Also, an annual symptom questionnaire will be required to be submitted to Student Affairs. If you have any symptoms described in the questionnaire, follow the instructions about further examination.
- Flu Shot every year before flu season begins (September – mid-October)
 - Students must display a UPMC flu shot badge in UPMC patient care areas during flu season.
 - Students vaccinated by UPMC Employee Health and receiving a UPMC flu shot badge may self-report their flu shot. See Records Officer for details.
 - Students vaccinated in the PittMed flu shot clinics in Scaife Hall will be documented by a UPSOM Student Affairs staff member at the event and receive a UPMC flu shot badge.
 - All others must provide documentation to Student Affairs – we will issue your UPMC flu shot badge when you bring in the documentation.
 - If the student cannot get the flu shot for medical reasons, a medical exemption form must be completed by your physician. See Student Affairs for assistance.
- Covid-19 Vaccine
 - The University of Pittsburgh requires all students to be fully vaccinated against the SARS-CoV-2 virus.
 - Students are required to adhere to any updated University of Pittsburgh’s policy on COVID-19 vaccinations that occur throughout the academic year.
 - If the student cannot get the COVID-19 vaccine for medical reasons, a medical exemption form must be completed by your physician. See Student Affairs for assistance.

Every 10 Years

- Adult Tdap vaccination must be updated 10 years after the previous dose
 - Documentation must be submitted to Student Affairs once completed