

Policy Name: 12.07.1 Immunizations Requirements**Scope**

It is the University of Texas at Tyler School of Medicine (UT Tyler SOM) policy to set standards for required immunizations and tuberculosis screening for all SOM students as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control. The SOM requires all medical students to submit documentation of required immunizations prior to matriculation.

Responsibilities

The Associate Dean of Student Affairs is responsible for ensuring communication of the immunization requirements and working with the UT Tyler's One Stop Shop to check if students are compliant. The student is responsible for any expenses related to immunizations.

Policy

To protect patients, students, staff and the public, the UT Tyler SOM requires all medical students to submit documentation of required immunizations prior to matriculation directly to the One Stop Shop. The One Stop Shop will maintain the student immunization records. Student immunization records remain separate from academic records.

The immunization requirements conform to the AAMC standardized immunization form (see <https://www.aamc.org/media/23441/download>). Immunizations will be required of all students and follow the rules of the Texas Administrative Code; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The following immunizations will be required upon entry for all students enrolled in health-related courses that will involve direct patient contact in medical- or dental-care facilities or who come in contact with human or animal biological fluids or tissue.

- Tetanus/diphtheria (TDAP): proof of one dose of tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis (Tdap) within 10 years.
- Measles (Rubeola): proof of two doses of measles or MMR vaccine, or one dose of measles vaccine and one dose of MMR vaccine administered since Jan. 1, 1968, or a positive titer confirming immunity (must include a copy of the laboratory report).
- Mumps: proof of one dose of mumps or MMR vaccine administered on or after the first birthday, or a positive titer confirming immunity (must include a copy of the laboratory report).

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- Rubella: proof of one dose of rubella or MMR vaccine administered on or after the first birthday, or a positive titer confirming immunity (must include a copy of the laboratory report).
- Varicella: proof of two doses of varicella vaccine after the first birthday or documentation of history of the disease, including the date, or a positive titer confirming immunity (must include a copy of the laboratory report).
- Hepatitis B: documentation of three doses of hepatitis B vaccine, two dose Heplisav B followed by a Quantitative Hepatitis B Surface A antibody test, the expedited Hepatitis A&B (TWINRIX) combo vaccine series (four injections), or a positive titer confirming immunity (must include a copy of the laboratory report).
- Tuberculosis Skin Test (PPD): within six months of matriculation or, if history of a positive PPD reading exists, documentation of a chest X-ray within six (6) months of enrollment (must send radiology report of chest X-ray). Tuberculosis screening: documentation of 2 negative TB skin tests (PPD), reported in millimeter (mm), less than 2 months prior to matriculation or, negative IGRA blood test (must include laboratory report), or if history of a positive TB test (IGRA or PPD), documentation of a negative chest X-ray within two months of enrollment (must send radiology report of chest X-ray).
- Meningococcal (Bacterial Meningitis): All new students to, in conjunction with their initial registration, receive information approved by the Texas Department of Health related to bacterial meningitis. This information includes the symptoms of the disease; how it may be diagnosed and its possible consequences if untreated; how the disease is transmitted; how it may be prevented; and the relative risk of contracting the disease for students of higher education.

The information also discusses the availability and effectiveness of vaccination against treatment for the disease. Students are requested to confirm their receipt of this information. Students younger than 22 years of age are required (per State of Texas SB 1107) to provide documentation signed by a health practitioner evidencing immunization for bacterial meningitis five (5) years preceding the first day of classes of the semester they are enrolling in the SOM. The immunization must be documented at least 10 days prior to the start of the term.

- Influenza: an influenza vaccine is also offered annually and is required. An influenza vaccine is required annually during flu season.

SARS-CoV2: Students are to have received one (1) dose of the most updated COVID-19 vaccine unless they receive a medical or religious exemption. Individuals who did not receive any of the primary series of the COVID-19 vaccine (prior to April 2023) are not required to obtain the primary vaccine series, however they still are required to have one (1) dose of the most updated COVID-19 vaccine.

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SOM immunization requirements align with UT Tyler immunization and clinical teaching site requirements. Any immunizations added to the UT Tyler requirements are required by clinical teaching sites and are consistent with the requirements of other Texas medical schools.

Students may request to be exempted from certain vaccines as indicated above by means permitted within Texas and Federal Law. However, even if exempted, a student may be denied the opportunity to participate in training or patient care in certain health care facilities in accordance with the policies of those facilities.

Monitoring of Immunization Status and TB Screenings

A pre-orientation checklist outlining the immunization and TB screening requirements and deadlines will be sent to all admitted students prior to matriculation. Students are responsible for providing documentation that satisfies these requirements to the UT Tyler One Stop Shop who will store, review, and approve student immunizations. Students must maintain compliance with immunization and TB requirements for the duration of their time in the SOM educational program. The One Stop Shop staff at UT Tyler will monitor the status of student immunizations to ensure that they remain current and will contact students directly when deficiencies or lapses arise. The Office of Student Affairs will not be informed of specific details surrounding student immunization records but will receive regular updates regarding student immunization compliance that indicates either compliant or non-compliant. Students who are non-compliant will not be allowed to enroll in the next course/clerkship until they are back in compliance as confirmed by the One Stop Shop. Medical school faculty and staff members will not have access to students' immunization records.

Consequences of Non-Compliance:

Applicants or students who fail to comply with the immunization requirements policy may be subject to withdrawal of their acceptance offer or disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal. Medical students will not begin or continue patient contact unless their immunization and TB screening status is current and complete as recorded by One Stop Shop. If a student falls out of compliance after starting patient contact or performing clinical rotation duties, they will be instructed to stop all patient contact until they are brought into compliance from approval of updated records submitted to One Stop Shop.

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