

2.4 Immunizations and Documentation Requirements

(Revised 04/15/2020)

Any student enrolled in any two or four-year institution of higher education (schools, universities) listed in the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's list are required to have the following immunizations. This is applicable to all students enrolled in health-related courses **that will involve direct patient contact** in medical or dental facilities, regardless of number of courses taken, number of hours taken, and classification of student. Students considered to be provisionally enrolled cannot enroll without receipt of at least one dose of MMR vaccine if direct patient contact will occur during the provisional enrollment. These requirements must be completed prior to students beginning their first nursing semester. All students must have all requirements completed in the Castle Branch system before they attend clinical. Failure to produce documentation of met requirements will result in a missed clinical day. Students have the right to decline immunizations or insurance but may be denied clinical placement in specific facilities and faculty cannot insure alternate placement.

2.4.1 Immunizations

Students enrolled in nursing courses are required to certify immunity to or to certify immunization of the following vaccines:

Influenza: One of the following is required: documentation of a flu shot administered during the current flu season (August-May)

OR

Declination signed by a healthcare provider.

Documentation DOES NOT need to indicate that the vaccine you received is from the batch of the current flu season.

Renewal date will be set to 11/01 of the following flu season.

Note: Annual flu vaccines are mandatory for all nursing students. In the event that a student enters enrollment during the months of June through September, the student will be required to have an influenza vaccine again by October 1st, or upon the first date the current flu vaccine is available.

Hepatitis B Series: Positive antibody titer (lab report or physician verification required)

If a titer result is negative, you may have to complete additional vaccines before repeating your titer to retest your immunity. Depending on your immunity status to each disease and the guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), it can take up to 8 months to meet compliance.

Measles, Mumps, & Rubella (MMR): Positive antibody titers for all 3 components (lab report or health care provide verification required)

If a titer result is negative, you may have to complete additional vaccines before repeating your titer to retest your immunity. Depending on your immunity status to each disease and the guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), it can take up to 8 months to meet compliance.

Tetanus, Diphtheria, & Pertussis (Tdap): Submit documentation of a Tdap booster administered within the past 10 years. The renewal date will be set 10 years from the administered date.

Polio: Although the polio vaccine is not required for any student, nursing students are encouraged to ascertain that they are immune to poliomyelitis.

Varicella (Chicken Pox): Positive antibody titer (lab report or physician verification required)
If a titer result is negative, you may have to complete additional vaccines before repeating your titer to retest your immunity. Depending on your immunity status to each disease and the guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), it can take up to 8 months to meet compliance.

2.4.2 TB Screening

Tuberculosis Screening:

One of the following is required:

- A negative PPD Mantoux tuberculin skin test (TST)
OR
- A negative blood test (QuantiFERON (QFT) or T-Spot)

Students/HCWs with a baseline POSITIVE or newly POSITIVE test result for M. tuberculosis infection or documentation of previous treatment for latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) or TB disease:

Please submit a clear chest x-ray showing no signs of tuberculosis.

If receiving treatment, please also supply:

- Documentation showing the start of treatment
- Documentation showing the completion of treatment from a health care provider.

Students may attend clinical experiences if they are undergoing treatment for infection and are clear of TB disease. Please speak with your School Administrator in these cases.

Renewal will be set for 1 year.

Upon renewal please submit

For past Negative tests: A one-step PPD Mantoux tuberculin skin test

OR

A Negative blood test (QuantiFERON (QFT) or T-Spot)

For past Positive tests:

Please provide documentation that you have received an Annual TB Symptom Screen. This screen should be accomplished by educating the student /HCW about symptoms of TB disease and instructing the HCW/Student to report any such symptoms immediately to the health care provider or the local health department. Treatment for LTBI should be considered in accordance with CDC guidelines.

OR

International Students: Please complete and submit the Mandatory Tuberculosis Screening Documentation Form and Lab Report of Test Results, signed by your health care provider.

This link will provide information on the requirements and the test acceptability criteria: <http://www.uttyler.edu/oip/issfs/medical-clearance.php>

Exclusions from immunization compliance are based on each health care facility. Exclusions may be allowable on an individual basis for medical contraindications, and religious conflicts. Requirements for polio, measles, rubella, mumps, and hepatitis B vaccine are waived during pregnancy.

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

1. Students with medical contraindications must submit written verification form a health care provider that the immunization required would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's family or household. Unless a lifelong condition is specified, the verification is valid for only one year from the date signed by the physician.
2. Students whose religious beliefs forbid the use of vaccines must present an affidavit signed by the applicant stating that the immunization conflicts with the tenants and practice of a recognized church or religious denomination of which the applicant is an adherent or member.
3. Pregnant female students who submit written documentation of a positive pregnancy test are not required to take any of the above listed vaccines with the exception of Tdap. If the student has not had a Tdap within the last 10 years, it is best to delay administration of Tdap until the second trimester. There are no contraindications to Tdap during pregnancy after the first trimester.

2.4.3 Liability Insurance

Professional liability insurance fees will be added to the bill at registration.

2.4.4 RN Licensure

Licensure Verification for current registered nurses (RNs): For all licensed nurses, current licensure in the state will be verified before admission is considered. Any licensed nurse with a current license restriction or who receives a subsequent restriction after admission to the SON must contact the appropriate program director. Progression in the program will be contingent upon the nature of the restriction.

2.4.5 CPR

Submit your current CPR certification. Must be the American Heart Association Healthcare Provider course. Copy of BOTH the front AND the back of your card is required and the card MUST be signed. Temporary certificate of letter from provider will be accepted and temporarily approved for 30 days by which time the permanent documentation must be uploaded.

Renewal date will be set based on expiration of certification.

2.4.6 Health Insurance

Submit a copy of your current health insurance card OR proof of coverage.

Verification of coverage provider is required if the name on the document does not match.

Renewal date will be set to 1 year from date of upload.

Note: Student insurance waiver also needs to be included for students who waive health insurance. Form is available for download within this requirement.