

Student Immunization Policy 3.13

Original Implementation: October 2004

Last Revision: January 2024

Immunization against communicable diseases is necessary for the health of students, clients, and the public. Immunization is mandated by the Texas Department of Health, the University, and our clinical agencies.

1) All students will show proof of current:

- a) MMR immunization (2 doses) or serologic confirmation of immunity;
- b) Tdap (tetanus-diphtheria and pertussis) immunization, including one within the past 10 years;
- c) Hepatitis B series completed as per current CDC guidelines for healthcare personnel or serologic confirmation of immunity
- d) Two (2) doses of varicella vaccine or serologic confirmation of immunity;
- e) Meningococcal vaccine if younger than 22 years of age by the first day of the start of the semester (a booster may be required);
- f) Flu vaccine – annually by November 1st of the current academic year.

2) TB Test:

a) BSN:

- i) Students will show proof of a negative TB blood test (QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus).
- ii) Students will be tested within at least the year before enrollment into the program, or by the designated due date.
- iii) Students will upload a copy of the QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus blood test lab report prior to the first day of class.
- iv) Annually, after the initial TB blood test, students must upload the TB form. If any answers on the TB form suggest TB exposure, more testing will be required.
- v) If previous positive TB test or treatment:
 - (1) Students with a positive TB blood test will be required to submit a current (within last 6 months) clear chest x-ray.
 - (2) If treatment for TB is in progress or has been completed, student must provide documentation from the Health Department.

b) RN-BSN/SONIC:

- i) TB blood tests are the recommended form of testing for TB at the DeWitt School of Nursing.
- ii) Students will upload a copy of the QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus blood test lab report before the first day of the semester involving clinical care of patients.
- iii) Students will be tested within at least the year before enrollment into the program or by the due date.
- iv) If the test is positive, the student will complete a symptom evaluation and a chest x-ray to rule out TB disease.

v) In the event the RN-BSN student is employed as a nurse at the facility where they will complete clinical hours, the student should follow the hospital protocol. If the hospital requires another type of TB testing for their employee, the student should submit documentation of those results. If the hospital does not indicate testing for their employee, the student should submit documentation of the hospital deferring testing.

c) MSN:

- i) TB blood tests are the recommended form of testing for TB at the DeWitt School of Nursing.
- ii) Students will upload a copy of the QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus blood test lab report before the first day of the semester involving clinical care of patients.
- iii) Students will be tested within at least the year before of enrollment into the program or by the designated due date.
- iv) If the test is positive, the student will complete a symptom evaluation and a chest x-ray to rule out TB disease.
- v) Annually after the initial test, students must upload the TB form. If any answers on the TB form suggest TB exposure, more testing will be required.
- vi) Additionally, ~~also~~, individual clinical sites may require more frequent testing.

PROCEDURE

1. Each student will submit records to the designated document repository of the School of Nursing (Castlebranch) showing proof of current immunizations as listed above.
2. All students will have all immunizations current and documented in the School of Nursing.
3. If a student fails to meet the above requirements and fails to have all immunizations current and documented in the School of Nursing prior to the before the first day of the semester involving clinical care of patients the student will not be allowed to attend clinical. Failure to attend clinical results in clinical demerit(s).
4. It is the student's responsibility to maintain currency of vaccinations.
7. The School of Nursing will send student's immunization status to agencies as required.

Waiver:

Waivers must be in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Texas Department of Health as set forth below:

Exclusions from compliance are allowable on an individual basis for medical contraindications, reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, and active duty with the armed forces of the United States. Students in these categories must submit evidence for exclusion from compliance as specified by law.

- (1) To claim exclusion for medical reasons, the student must present a statement signed by a physician who has examined the student, in which it is stated that, in the physician's opinion, the vaccine required is medically contraindicated or poses a significant risk of the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's household. Unless it is written in the statement that a lifelong condition exists, the exemption statement is valid for only one (1) year from the date signed by the physician.

- (2) To claim exclusion for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, a signed affidavit must be presented by the student or the student's parent or guardian, stating that the vaccinations are declined for reasons of conscience, including religious beliefs. The affidavit will be valid for a two-year period. The student, who has not received the required immunizations for reasons of conscience, including religious beliefs, may be excluded from classes, including clinicals, in times of emergency or epidemic declared by the commissioner of public health. Students that provide affidavits instead of immunizations cannot be guaranteed clinical placement, depending on the immunization requirements of the clinical agencies. Clinical requirements are mandated by the BON to successfully complete any nursing degree and a student may be unable to complete their degree if they are unable to complete the clinical requirements.
 - (A) A person claiming exclusion for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, from a required immunization may only obtain the affidavit form by submitting a written request to the department. The request must include:
 - (i) Full name of student;
 - (ii) Student's date of birth (month/day/year)

 - (B) Written requests must be submitted through the United States Postal Service (or other commercial carrier), by facsimile, or by hand delivery to the department's Bureau of Immunization and Pharmacy Support, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756.

 - (C) Upon request, one affidavit form for each student will be mailed unless otherwise specified (will not exceed a maximum of five forms per student).

 - (D) The department will not maintain a record of the names of individuals who request an affidavit and will return the original request with the forms requested.

- (3) To claim exclusion for armed forces, persons who can prove that they are serving on active duty with the armed forces of the United States are exempted from the requirements.