

Division of Physician Assistant Studies

Immunization and Health Policy

We require that all entering students report health history information and meet immunization requirements. These requirements are based on current CDC policy on immunizations for healthcare personnel.

The division has contracted with CastleBranch to securely house our students' health record process. The initial cost for establishing your health requirement tracker is \$72.50, which also includes our required criminal background check. A drug screen is also required and the fee for this is \$38.

Failure to complete this process prior to orientation may prevent your ability to work with patients and thus your progress in the program.

Health Insurance

Health insurance is required of all students in the School of Medicine before starting clinical rotations. Students must provide proof of health insurance (copy of insurance card) by the deadline specified in the offer of admission and yearly thereafter.

Information on insurance for students at WVU is available at <https://talentandculture.wvu.edu/student-insurance>

Physical Examination

All students must provide documentation of a history and physical by the deadline specified in the offer of admission.

Immunizations and Titer Requirements

Student must provide documentation of immunizations and titers consistent with CDC guidelines for health care providers (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6007a1.htm>). Please pay specific attention to deadlines noted in bold text.

Hepatitis B:

Shots: 3 dose series IM (0,1 and 6 mos.)

Titer: IgG anti-HBs 1-2 mos. after dose #3

(If the Hepatitis series is not complete before the deadline specified in the offer of admission, the student must have at least the first shot. The entire series and titer must be completed before the end of the 2nd semester of the program, August 7, 2020.)

Influenza

One dose of influenza vaccine is required annually

Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)

Shots: 2 doses, 4 weeks apart (if born later than 1957)

Titer: IgG titer 1-2 mos. after last shot

(Due by the deadline specified in the offer of admission)

Varicella

Shots: 2 doses, 28 days or more apart (if non-immune titer or no prior infection)

Titer: IgG titer 1-2 mos. after last shot

(Due by the deadline specified in the offer of admission)

Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap) booster

Must have at least one dose of Tdap.

A Tdap or Td booster must be completed within the past 10 years.

Tdap is also recommended during each pregnancy.

(Due by the deadline specified in the offer of admission)

PPD

The Two-Step Mantoux tuberculin skin test (TST) is required. Thereafter, the student must have a one-step test done annually.

(Due by the deadline specified in the offer of admission)

Poliomyelitis

All students must complete the primary series and booster (age 4-6) for polio.

(Due by the deadline specified in the offer of admission)

Meningococcus

WVU requires all students to have this vaccination

(Due by the deadline specified in the offer of admission)

Non-Immune Titers

Hepatitis B – restart the series and repeat titer 1-2 months after completion

MMR – give a third MMR shot, no repeat titer required

Varicella – provide documentation of 2 doses of varicella vaccine

Declinations

Any student who declines immunizations for religious or other reasons must be aware of potential personal dangers and will be required to sign a waiver.

Clinical education sites may refuse to accept students who have declined to take the required immunizations and titers. Therefore, no guarantee can be made that a student who declines

immunization/titers can be placed for clinical education.

CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) Training

Each student must be certified in adult, child, and infant CPR and choking, and use of AEDs. **This training will be included in coursework during the first semester of the program. It must be maintained through the remainder of the professional curriculum.** All students will be required to attend CPR/BLS training in the WVSTEPS lab your first semester in the program.

HIPAA and OSHA Training

All students are required to complete training in HIPAA regulations regarding confidentiality of patient information and OSHA regulations regarding exposure to/transmission of infectious diseases. This training is included in the first semester of the program. Both HIPAA and OSHA training must be renewed annually via an online training modules on SOLE.

Documentation and Communication of Health Information

The student must submit completed Personal Immunizations History and Student Health Examination forms by the date specified in the offer of admission. The student must also obtain titer results and documentation of any additional immunizations not listed on the Immunization History form. All information must be uploaded onto the CastleBranch Medical Document Manager. All documents scanned/uploaded to the document manager must be legible. The student will have online access to his/her own database report. Additional information on completing this process will be emailed to incoming students. Student are advised to read these instructions carefully.

It is the student's responsibility to provide updated information on immunizations, health insurance coverage, PPD results, and CPR certification.

Students whose files are incomplete will not be allowed to participate in course lab sections that involve patients or in clinical education assignments. In addition, registration for other courses may be restricted, or course grades may be affected for students whose files are incomplete.

Before a student begins a clinical rotation, the academic program must verify to the clinical site that the student has complied with the health requirements. Some sites may request additional documentation, such as copies of immunization cards, lab reports, etc. In this case, the student will be notified and will be required to furnish the clinic with the appropriate records or access to his/her CastleBranch Document manager database.

Questions concerning these health requirements should be directed to Allyson Pierce, Clinical Education Manager, School of Medicine Professional and Undergraduate Programs (sarah.pierce@hsc.wvu.edu, 304-293-8897).

Renewals

Several health/immunization items listed above (including PPD, HIPAA, and OSHA training) must be renewed annually. These items may not expire while a student is completing a clinical education placement. Therefore, these items must be renewed according to the deadlines posted in this policy.

Failure to renew and/or provide documentation of these items may result in course grade penalties, and registration for future clinical education and lab courses may be restricted.

Applicable ARC-PA Standards

Fourth Edition (through August 31, 2020)

A3.07 The program *must* have and implement a policy on immunization of students and such policy *must* be based on the current Centers for Disease Control recommendations for health professionals.

Fifth Edition (effective September 1, 2020)

A3.07 The program must define, publish, make readily available and consistently apply:
a) a policy on immunization and health screening of students. Such policy must be based on then current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for health professionals and state specific mandates

Approved: October 2019

Next Review: October 2020