

## 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 (PA Class of 2022) and Certiphi (PA Classes of 2023 and beyond) to administer the drug screen and background check process and securely house our students' health records.

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. Physical examination must be completed within the six months prior to matriculation and must be signed by a licensed healthcare professional.

### **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 2<sup>rd</sup> semester of the program)**

### **Influenza**

One dose of influenza vaccine is required annually during flu season

### **Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)**

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

Titer: IgG titer 1-2 mos. after dose #2

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

### **Varicella**

Proof of immunity includes documentation of 2 doses of varicella vaccine, 28 days or more apart OR a positive varicella IgG titer

- A student without evidence of two doses of varicella vaccine and with a negative varicella titer will be required to receive two doses of varicella vaccine following the negative titer
- If a student does have a negative varicella titer despite having evidence of two prior doses of varicella vaccine (though a titer is not required), no additional doses of vaccine will be required
- A student with a negative varicella titer and only a history of varicella disease will be required to provide evidence of two doses of varicella vaccine following the negative titer

**(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)**

### **Tuberculosis Screening**

The Two-Step Mantoux Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) is required. Thereafter, the student must have a one-step test done annually. Students with a past history of a positive PPD or similar test should speak with their healthcare provider regarding appropriate ongoing risk assessment and further evaluation, which may include a T-SPOT or QuantiFERON test.

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

### **Poliomyelitis**

All students must complete the primary series (three doses) and a booster (given between 4-6 years of age).

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

### **Meningococcus**

If not received previously, meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) is recommended. Serogroup B meningococcal vaccine may be indicated for some students (students should consult their healthcare provider for recommendations).

## Non-Immune Titers

**Hepatitis B** – restart the three-dose series of hepatitis B vaccine and repeat hepatitis B antibody titer following completion of the three-dose series

**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 receive the required immunizations and/or 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 WV STEPS lab during the 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 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 to the medical document manager according to

instructions from the Clinical Education 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. Students 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 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](mailto:sarah.pierce@hsc.wvu.edu), 304-293-8897).

## Renewals

Several health/immunization items listed above (including influenza vaccine, 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

Revised: October 2020

Next Review: October 2021