

## 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 Certiphi 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 examination 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.

#### **COVID-19:**

Per affiliation agreements which require adherence to all West Virginia University Hospital policies, students with educational experiences in the clinical setting must provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19. For vaccines which require two doses to induce full immunity, a student must have received both doses prior to the applicable deadline. This requirement may

be met by immunization with any vaccine which has been fully approved by the FDA or authorized by the FDA under its Emergency Use Authorization.

Exemptions, when sought, must be submitted by following the policies and procedures of West Virginia University Hospital Systems, Inc.

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

### **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 received at least the first immunization of the series. 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 (September-December).

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

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

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

### **Varicella**

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

**(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.

Students with a positive TST must receive a letter of clearance on physician's official letterhead prior to any educational experiences in the clinical setting.

**(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**

At least one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) is required.

Serogroup B meningococcal vaccine may be indicated for some students (students should consult their healthcare provider for recommendations).

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

## **Non-Immune Titers**

Students with negative or equivocal titers must meet the following requirements, as applicable:

**Hepatitis B** – restart the three-dose series of hepatitis B vaccine and repeat hepatitis B antibody titer 1 month after completion of the three-dose series (vaccine doses given at 0 months, 1 month and 6 months; repeat IgG antibody titer at 7 months)

**MMR** – receive a third dose of MMR vaccine

**Varicella** – receive a third dose 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. 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 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 5<sup>th</sup> Edition ARC-PA Standards

A3.02 The program must define, publish, make readily available and consistently apply its policies and practices to all students.

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, August 2021, October 2021, September 2022

Next Review: October 2023