

Policy Title: Student Immunization Requirements

Effective Date: 09.01.2007

Revision Date: 12.21.2017

---

## STUDENT IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

### **INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE**

All students entering Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science (RFUMS) are required to show proof of immunity through immunization records and (in the case of clinical programs), blood titers in order to ensure that the spread of communicable diseases is minimized. Each student must also complete a health history and physical form documenting their health status. These requirements comply with the State of Illinois College Immunization Code (77 ILL. ADM. CODE 694) as well as follow guidelines and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Immunization Action Coalition.

### **PROCEDURES**

#### **A. PROCEDURES & POLICIES FOR ALL PROGRAMS**

Each student must provide evidence that he/she has met the immunization requirements as outlined on the Pre-Matriculation Immunization Form. In accordance with the University requirements set forth by the Division of Student Affairs, Diversity, and Inclusion, each student will create a personal profile through CastleBranch ([rfu.castlebranch.com](http://rfu.castlebranch.com)), as directed by the Division of Strategic Enrollment Management. The CastleBranch portal requires a student to select the program he/she is enrolled in; Clinical or Non-Clinical immunization requirements are assigned to a student's CastleBranch account, accordingly:

**Clinical Programs:** College of Health Professions (CHP), Chicago Medical School (CMS), College of Pharmacy (COP), and Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine (SCPM)

**Non-Clinical Programs:** Biomedical Sciences (BMS), Board Review, Pre-Matriculation Program (PMP), and School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS)

In addition to the immunization requirements, every student must complete a physical exam within one year prior to the start of classes. He/she must submit a completed Health History and Physical Form signed by a healthcare provider and the student.

All students, irrespective of the program they're enrolled in, can obtain the two

**Policy Title: Student Immunization Requirements**

required forms (Pre-Matriculation Immunization AND Health History and Physical) from their CastleBranch account. The forms are to be downloaded, completed, and re-uploaded to their CastleBranch profile. All documents must include the student first and last name.

Students can obtain the required immunizations, antibody titers and physical exam through the Rosalind Franklin University Health Clinics. Orders for these immunizations and titers can be obtained from an appropriate licensed provider including providers at the Rosalind Franklin University Health Clinics.

Students who request exemptions to this policy will be referred to the Division of Student Affairs, Diversity, and Inclusion at RFUMS to determine whether the exemptions will be permitted (RFUMS Student Handbook: Student Health and Wellbeing, Immunization Requirements and Resources).

**B. SPECIFIC PROCEDURES FOR CLINICAL PROGRAMS:**

**Applies only to students enrolled in CHP, CMS, COP, and SCPM**

Quantitative titer lab reports including numerical values are also uploaded to the student's personal profile. All documents must include first and last name.

1. Proof of one Tdap vaccine in adolescence or adulthood is required. If the Tdap vaccine was more than 10 years ago, proof of a Td vaccine within the past 10 years is required.
2. IgG antibody (quantitative) titer results must be submitted for measles (rubeola), mumps, rubella, varicella, and hepatitis B surface antibody (after completion of the 3-dose hepatitis B vaccine series). These five antibody titers must show numerical levels in the immune or positive range.
3. If the titers for measles (rubeola), mumps, or rubella are negative or equivocal, then the prior MMR immunization history should be reviewed.
  - a. A student with negative titers who has never received MMR vaccination should receive two MMR vaccinations four weeks apart with titers drawn not less than four weeks post the second vaccination. If the repeat titers are negative, the student should receive one more MMR vaccine with titers drawn not less than four weeks post vaccination.
  - b. A student with negative titers who has documentation of two prior MMR vaccines should receive one MMR vaccine with titers drawn not less than four weeks post vaccination.
  - c. If the student has had three documented MMR vaccinations and the follow up titers are still negative, no further MMR vaccination is required.
4. If the titer for varicella is negative or equivocal, the prior varicella immunization history should be reviewed.
  - a. If the student has no documentation of past varicella immunization, the student needs to complete a series of two varicella

**Policy Title: Student Immunization Requirements**

- immunizations administered at least 28 days apart (even if the student has had chicken pox). A titer should be redrawn not less than four weeks post the second vaccination. If the titer is negative, the student should receive one more varicella vaccine with a titer redrawn not less than four weeks post vaccination.
- b. If the student has documentation of two prior varicella vaccines, the student should receive one varicella vaccine and the titer should be redrawn not less than four weeks post vaccination.
  - c. If students have had three documented varicella vaccines and the follow up titer is still negative, no further varicella vaccination is required.
5. If the student has not received the series of three hepatitis B immunizations, the hepatitis B series of three vaccinations needs to be initiated.
- a. The second vaccination should be given one month after the first.
  - b. The third vaccination should be administered five months after the second.
  - c. A hepatitis B surface antibody titer is drawn one month after the third vaccination.
6. If the student has had three hepatitis B immunizations but the hepatitis B surface antibody titer comes back negative or equivocal, the student should be re-vaccinated with a 3-dose hepatitis B series following the routine schedule of 0, 1, and 6 months.
- a. A repeat hepatitis B surface antibody, quantitative titer is to be drawn not less than four weeks after dose #3 of the series.
  - b. If the repeat hepatitis B surface antibody titer is negative or equivocal, a hepatitis B surface antigen and hepatitis B core antibody should be tested.
  - c. If the hepatitis B surface antigen or hepatitis B core antibody is positive, the student needs further evaluation to determine their hepatitis B status. He/she must be seen by a primary care physician for follow-up.
  - d. If the student's hepatitis B surface antibody titer is negative after six doses of the vaccine and the hepatitis B surface antigen and hepatitis B core antibody are negative, the student is a non-responder. The student should be counseled regarding risks of exposure to hepatitis B virus, precautions to prevent infection, and post-exposure HBIG prophylaxis for known or likely exposure to blood that is positive for hepatitis B surface antigen.
7. Each student must undergo a 2-Step PPD (two tuberculosis skin tests administered 7-21 days apart) testing within six months prior to the start of classes, regardless of bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccination status. Alternatively, a QuantiFERON Gold Tb blood test within six months prior to the start of classes is accepted.
- a. For students with a positive tuberculosis (Tb) skin test (new or history of), a baseline chest x-ray is required within 12 months prior

**Policy Title: Student Immunization Requirements**

- to the start of classes. The student must provide documentation of the positive PPD skin test (date administered, date read, and millimeters of induration), a copy of the chest x-ray, and a completed annual Tb Symptom Screening Questionnaire.
- b. Students with a new positive Tb skin test (PPD) must be referred to a physician for follow-up.
  - c. After the initial 2-Step PPD, students must maintain annual 1-Step PPD updates. Annual tuberculosis skin testing will be provided through the Health Clinics at no charge to the student once the entry PPDs have been completed. Alternatively, annual QuantiFERON Gold Tb testing is accepted (this is not provided through the Health Clinics).
  - d. A student with a known past positive PPD must complete an annual TB Symptom Screening Questionnaire. Any student who develops Tb symptoms must follow up with a physician and have an updated chest x-ray.
8. Seasonal influenza vaccination is required annually after matriculation.

**C. SPECIFIC PROCEDURES FOR NON-CLINICAL PROGRAMS:**

**Applies only to students enrolled in BMS, Board Review, PMP, and SGPS**

1. Proof of one Tdap vaccine in adolescence or adulthood is required. If the Tdap vaccine was more than 10 years ago, proof of a Td vaccine within the past 10 years is required.
2. Documentation of two MMR vaccines from childhood must be documented.
3. Documentation of three hepatitis B vaccines OR an immune hepatitis B surface antibody titer.
4. Hepatitis A and meningococcal vaccines are optional at this time. Documentation should be submitted if they have been completed.
5. Each student must undergo 1-Step PPD testing within six months prior to the start of classes, regardless of BCG vaccination status. Alternatively, a QuantiFERON Gold Tb test within six months prior to the start of classes is accepted.
  - a. For students with a known positive tuberculosis skin test (new or history of), he/she must provide documentation of the positive PPD and have a baseline chest x-ray or QuantiFERON Gold Tb test within the 12 months prior to the start of classes. The student must provide documentation of the positive PPD skin test (date administered, date read, and millimeters of induration), a copy of the chest x-ray report or QuantiFERON Gold Tb test. Students must also complete annual Tb Symptom Screening Questionnaire.
  - b. Students with a new positive Tb skin test (PPD) must be referred to a physician for follow-up.

Policy Title: Student Immunization Requirements

6. Seasonal influenza vaccination is recommended annually.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Students:**

1. Ensure that immunization requirements are fulfilled prior to matriculation.
2. Submit proof of immunizations to CastleBranch prior to matriculation.
3. Maintain up-to-date immunizations during their time as students at RFUMS.
4. Maintain awareness of upcoming immunization needs.

### **RFUHC:**

1. Serve as a clinical resource regarding vaccines and immunizations.
2. Monitor and report student immunization status (compliant, in-process, non-compliant) to the Division of Student Affairs, Diversity, and Inclusion at RFUMS.
3. Ensure coherence between immunization requirements and documentation tracking in CastleBranch.

### **Student Health Leadership Taskforce:**

1. Determine student immunization requirements and communicate with the Division of Student Affairs, Diversity, and Inclusion at RFUMS about immunization requirements.
2. Ensure that clinical policy supports educational requirements.
3. Update immunization policy as needed according to CDC guidelines.

## **REFERENCES**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2005). *Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in Health-Care Settings, 2005*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5417.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2011). *Immunization of Health-Care Personnel: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)*. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6007a1.htm>

Immunization Action Coalition: <http://www.immunize.org/>

Immunization Action Coalition. (2016). *Healthcare Personnel Vaccine Recommendations*. Retrieved from <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2017.pdf>

State of Illinois College Immunization Code (77 ILL.ADM.CODE 694). Retrieved from <http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/077/07700694sections.html>