

Immunization and Health Screening Requirements

Title 25, Health Services, Part 1, Rule §97.64 of the Texas Administrative Code requires all students enrolled in health-related higher education courses to have certain required immunizations prior to enrollment. These regulations apply to all students enrolled in health-related higher education courses which will involve direct patient contact in medical care facilities. The Immunization and Health Screening requirements for Texas A&M, College of Pharmacy students are set forth according to these guidelines and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for Healthcare Personnel. The regulations, guidelines and requirements are reviewed annually and may be subject to change.

Adherence to these requirements is mandatory for all students seeking the Doctor of Pharmacy Degree at Texas A&M College of Pharmacy. Failure to adhere to the stated guidelines for the Immunization and Health Screening requirements may result in immediate withdrawal from all courses (per state law), possible disciplinary action and possible delay in the student's graduation.

The following Immunizations and Health Screenings are required. Acceptable documentation, including medical records and laboratory reports, must be provided. Documentation must include the student's name and full date (MM/DD/YYYY). Records from outside of the United States are not accepted. Re-vaccinations or titers confirming immunity are required for out-of-country records. More information on how and when to provide documentation will be provided throughout the admissions process and at pre-orientation. Students must be in compliance with required Immunizations and Health Screenings in order to attend classes.

Required Immunizations and Health Screenings

- **Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis:** Must receive a one-time dose of Tdap within the last 10 years, then Td booster thereafter.
- **Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR):** Students born in or after 1957 must submit either documentation of **TWO** doses of MMR vaccine **OR** evidence of MMR immunity by titers.
- **Tuberculosis skin test:** A two-step TB skin test (TST) is required upon admission or a blood test, called IGRA (Interferon Gamma Release Assay) as either the QuantiFERON Gold or T-Spot. If you have never had a two-step TB skin test, the test is done as follows: the first skin test is placed, and results are read after 48-72 hours. The second test is placed at least 7 days, but no more than 21 days, after the reading of the first test, and read at 48 -72 hours. Documentation includes placement dates, reading dates, results and mm induration of both tests. If you have documentation of a negative two-step TST or blood test greater than the past 12 months, you will need one more two-step TST to meet the TST requirement. A skin test or IGRA is required annually thereafter.

For those with a history of a positive TST or IGRA, a copy of a CXR (Chest x-ray) report and symptom assessment must be provided by the first day of class. If being treated for LTBI (latent TB infection), provide medication treatment dates. Students with a history of a positive TST are also required to complete a symptom assessment initially and annually (available at <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/IDCU/disease/tb/forms/>). International students must follow TAMU guidelines regarding TB requirements.

- **Hepatitis B:** A series of **three** immunizations **and** a Hepatitis B Surface Antibody (anti-HBs) **QUANTITATIVE** titer are required. If not previously completed, students should begin the series now, following the timeline below:
 - Injection #1 – must be completed prior to enrollment in the 1st academic term
 - Injection #2 – one month after 1st injection
 - Injection #3 – five months after 2nd injection
 - Hepatitis B Surface Antibody **QUANTITATIVE** titer – 1-2 months after 3rd injectionFollowing a negative/equivocal result, repeat series and titer according to above timeline.

- **Varicella (Chickenpox):** Students must show proof of varicella immunization (2 doses, at least 4 weeks apart), **OR** submit evidence of immunity by a titer (Varicella Zoster IgG titer).
- **Influenza:** A yearly injection for influenza is **STRONGLY** recommended. Many rotation sites require proof of influenza vaccination annually. This should be obtained at the appropriate time of the year.
- **Bacterial Meningitis (Meningococcal) Vaccine:** All new students under the age of 22 must submit evidence of a bacterial meningitis vaccine in the past five years. Student must submit one of the following forms of documentation (that includes the month, date, year the vaccine was administered): (1) Certification bearing the signature stamp of the physician or his/her designee or public health personnel (2) An official immunization record generated by a state or local health authority; (3) An official record from another school official.

****You are not required to submit verification of the Bacterial Meningitis vaccine if:**

- You are 22 years old or older;
- You have a signed affidavit or certificate from a physician that states the vaccine would be injurious to your health;
- You submit a signed affidavit stating you decline the vaccine for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief. A Conscientious Exemption form from the Texas Department of State and Health Services must be used.

Students should maintain copies of their Immunization and Health Screening records and be able to provide documentation upon request.

Students are advised that pregnancy is a contraindication to the administration of certain vaccinations and should consult their physician for specific and additional information regarding vaccine administration.

The Office of Experiential Education provides proof of compliance with required Immunizations and Health Screenings to authorized parties as a prerequisite to participate in both introductory and advanced pharmacy practice experiences. Some sites will have additional and/or more stringent requirements.