

## POLICY ON IMMUNIZATIONS

Recommendations for administration of vaccines and other immunobiologic agents to HCWs are organized in three broad disease categories.

Source: Centers for Disease Control <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00050577.htm>

- Those for which active immunization is strongly recommended because of special risks for HCWs (i.e., hepatitis B, influenza, measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella);
- Those for which active and/or passive immunization of HCWs may be indicated in certain circumstances (i.e., tuberculosis, hepatitis A, meningococcal disease, typhoid fever, and vaccinia) or in the future (i.e., pertussis); and
- Those for which immunization of all adults is recommended (i.e., tetanus, diphtheria, and pneumococcal disease).

Physician Assistant (PA) Program students are informed of written policies addressing student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards before students undertake any educational activities that would place them at risk. These policies related to infectious and environmental hazards address methods of prevention; procedures for care and treatment after exposure, including definition of financial responsibility; and the effects of infectious and environmental disease or disability on student learning activities.

The PA Program refers to relevant institutional policies, including the *Policies and Procedure Bulletin on Communicable Diseases* and *Influenza Immunization Policy*. Please refer to the following links to institutional policies for details:

<http://infinet.wfubmc.edu/policies/admin/NCBH-139%20-%20Employee%20Health%20-%20Infection%20Control.pdf>

[http://infinet.wfubmc.edu/policies/WFUBMCInfluenzaImmunizationPolicy101510b\(3\).pdf](http://infinet.wfubmc.edu/policies/WFUBMCInfluenzaImmunizationPolicy101510b(3).pdf)

Students of the PA Program are eligible for services from and must demonstrate compliance with this policy to the Office of Student and Employee Health. Information about the Office of Student and Employee Health and related student health records follows:

Mandatory Student Health Records: A complete physical examination, immunization history and personal health history are required for admission to the School of Medicine and must be received by the Student Health Service prior to matriculation.

Mandatory Immunizations: North Carolina Immunization Rules require that specific immunizations be documented within 30 days following enrollment. All immunization obligations must be fulfilled before matriculation. Failure to comply will result in suspension until immunization or documentation is complete. Wake Forest School of Medicine's requirements exceed the state laws because it follows the guidelines provided by the Immunizations Practices Advisory Committee of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for persons working in health-related occupations [HHS Publication No. (CDC) 84-8017].

*Diphtheria/Pertussis/Tetanus - Tdap is now preferred*

- Tetanus/Diphtheria (TD or Td or Tdap) within past 10 years

*Rubeola (Measles)*

- Two doses live attenuated vaccine or two MMRs given after 12 months of age and at least one month apart, or laboratory evidence of immunity (rubeola titer)

*Mumps*

- Two doses live attenuated mumps vaccine or two MMRs after 12 months of age, or laboratory evidence of immunity (mumps titer)

*Rubella (German Measles)*

- One dose live attenuated rubella vaccine or one MMR after 12 months of age, or laboratory evidence of immunity (rubella titer)

*Chickenpox (Varicella zoster) titer*

- Laboratory evidence of immunity to Varicella.
- History of disease will not be accepted.
- Varicella vaccines will be required for negative titer results as per recommendations (currently two doses).

*Tuberculosis*

- A TST is required within the 12 months prior to the matriculation date. Tine test are NOT acceptable.
- A TST is not required if documentation of a positive TST is provided and includes millimeter measurement (mm). When a prior TB test has been positive, you must provide a copy of your chest x-ray report made within the 12 months prior to the matriculation date and documentation of any treatment received.

Blood-borne Pathogens Prophylaxis: In keeping with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards, all students must annually document attendance at a training session devoted to the avoidance of biological hazards. This instruction will take the form of mandatory lectures emphasizing the control of blood-borne pathogens. The procedures for care and treatment after accidental exposure to a biological hazard are available from Employee Health, who should be contacted at 336-716-4801 immediately upon a needle stick or other work-related hazardous occurrence. After 4:30 p.m. and on weekends and holidays, students should call 336-716-4801 and follow the prompts.

Recommended Immunizations:

*Hepatitis B*

- The series of three shots is highly recommended for medical and PA students. This is the only immunization not required before matriculation. Students who decline must sign a document of declination. All or part of the series may be received outside of Wake Forest School of Medicine, but documentation must be given to Employee Health. A blood titer determining immunity is recommended after the series is finished. Students will be billed for the vaccine and post-vaccine titer through the cashier's office.

For more details or questions, please contact the Office of Student and Employee Health. Contact information is available online at: <http://www.wakehealth.edu/School/Student-Health-Services.htm>