

UNMC IMMUNIZATION POLICY

Policy:

Students and others participating in educational programs at the University of Nebraska Medical Center must submit a completed UNMC Required Immunization form* to UNMC Student Health to document required vaccinations and/or immunity as described below. Students will be placed on hold and may not register for courses until they have met the immunization requirements**. Students are responsible for late registration fees encountered due to late submission of immunization documentation.

Individuals covered by this requirement include those in any of the following categories:

- 1) Enrolled in coursework for credit or for audit on any UNMC Campus or Division where the student may be required to be physically present.
- 2) Employees enrolled in UNMC coursework.
- 3) Visiting students and intercampus registrations from another university, including other University of Nebraska or state college campuses.
- 4) Individuals participating in educational programs lasting more than 7 days such as (but not limited to) Summer Undergraduate Research Programs, Summer Medical and Dental Education Program, Asia Pacific Rim Students (Summer PhD Program, Medical Exchange Program, UNMC CSC Program, those doing research in faculty labs, etc.), and Health Sciences High School.

Exceptions to immunization requirements:

- 1) International students not physically located in the United States need not submit documentation of immunization.
- 2) Students from another campus in the NU system or students who come from another accredited health sciences program in the US will be considered to have completed the immunization documentation process, provided they will not have the potential to be exposed to blood or body fluids.
- 3) Student visitors on the UNMC campus who are part of a recognized international academic program, who have met US State Department immunization requirements, and will not have the potential to be exposed to blood or body fluids will be considered to have completed the immunization documentation process.
- 4) Students enrolled in the Health Sciences High School must be current on vaccinations as required by OPS. They will not need to provide documentation of the Hepatitis B vaccination series provided they will not have the potential to be exposed to blood or body fluids.
- 5) The Director of Student Health may waive the requirements in cases of medical contraindication.

* http://www.unmc.edu/familymed/docs/Immunization_Form_13-0304.pdf

** Students accepted less than 6 weeks before the start of an academic term are not exempt from this policy. However, the registration hold will be released after receipt of documentation of the first Hepatitis B vaccination and at least one of two required tuberculosis skin tests results or other negative TB screening results that were completed within 6 months of arrival on campus provided the individual will not register for a course in which they will be exposed to blood or body fluids.

Procedure:

- 1) College Student Services staff and Program Directors are responsible for sending all accepted students immunization information within 7 days of student accepting admission to the program.
- 2) Students are responsible for returning required information to Student Health as soon as possible, but no later than 1 month prior to registration. Forms received after this deadline may not be processed in time to allow registration without a late registration fee.
- 3) Incomplete forms will not be accepted. The student is responsible for entering demographic data and dates for vaccinations and/or titers. Incomplete forms will be returned for completion.
- 4) Any additional fee incurred related to immunization and or screening for immunity that may apply will be the responsibility of the student.

UNMC Required Immunizations

Deadlines for documentation of immunization requirements will be listed under each specific immunization. Students who are on a waitlist are strongly encouraged to begin the immunization process and/or gather immunization documentation as soon as they are placed upon the waitlist. Failure to do so may result in a delay or denial of acceptance.

- 1) **Rubella (German Measles), Rubeola (Measles), Mumps**
 - a. All students must have evidence of immunity documented by an antibody titer **OR** written documentation of 2 doses of the MMR vaccine administered at least 4 weeks apart.
 - b. Students with evidence of prior receipt of only one dose of MMR or other measles-containing vaccine on or after their first birthday should receive a second dose of MMR, provided at least 4 weeks have elapsed since their previous dose.
 - c. Documentation of immunization must be received 1 month prior to registration. Students are not allowed to register without this documentation.
- 2) **Varicella (Chicken Pox)**
 - a. All students must have evidence of immunity documented by an antibody titer **OR** written documentation of 2 doses of varicella vaccine, given at least 4 weeks apart
 - b. Documentation of immunization must be received 1 month prior to registration. Students are not allowed to register without this documentation.
- 3) **Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis**
 - a. Students who are 11-18 who have not received a Tdap vaccine should be given a single dose of the vaccine. Students over age 18 who have not received a single dose of Tdap after age 18 should receive vaccination with Tdap. Tdap can be administered regardless of the interval since the last tetanus or diphtheria-toxoid containing vaccine. Students over age 18, after receipt of Tdap, should continue to receive Td for routine booster immunization against tetanus and diphtheria, every 10 years.
 - b. Documentation of immunization must be received 1 month prior to registration. Students are not allowed to register without this documentation.

4) Tuberculosis Screening on Admission

- a. *Category 1 Students who currently undergo yearly PPD testing*
 - i. Students, who are currently tested every year, submit the last 2 years of negative test documentation unless they have had continuous enrollment at UNMC. Ideally, students should have a negative test within 6 months prior to registration.
- b. *Category 2 Students who have not had a PPD in the past 2 years*
 - i. Students, who have NOT had PPD skin testing in the past 2 years, must have a 2-step PPD.
 - ii. A 2 step PPD is defined as 2 negative skin tests placed at least 7 days apart and each having been read 48 hours-72hours after placement. This must be completed within 6 months prior to registration.
- c. *Category 3 Students who were given BCG as a child but have not had a positive PPD*
 - i. Students who were given BCG as a child and have not tested positive to the PPD skin test should have the two-step PPD skin test performed. If the PPD is positive, the student should have IGRA testing performed. .
- d. *Category 4 : Students with a history of positive PPD*
 - i. If a student has had a positive skin test in the past (including those who received the BCG vaccine as a child), they must have documentation of a TB *Interferon-Gamma Release Assay* (IGRA) within 6 months prior to registration. IGRA blood testing will be used to meet the requirement for yearly TB screening.
 - ii. International Students without access to IGRA blood testing may submit evidence of a negative chest radiograph taken within 6 months prior to registration. Students should be screened at the Student Health Center upon arrival at UNMC.
- e. **Additional notes:**
 - i. i. Students with a history of a positive PPD, positive IGRA or history of tuberculosis will be seen in Student Health Clinic and evaluated for current signs and symptoms of active disease. An initial negative chest radiograph must be documented within the student health record within 6 months prior to registration. -If the screening is negative for symptoms of TB and the radiograph does not demonstrate evidence of active disease, the student will be allowed to register and engage in activities at UNMC. The student should be educated on symptoms of TB disease including fever, night sweats, dyspnea, cough, or hemoptysis; and asked to call the Student Health Center immediately if they experience any compatible symptoms.

5) Yearly Tuberculosis Screening

- a. All students must provide documentation of tuberculosis screening on a yearly basis.
- b. Students in Categories 1, 2, and 3 above are to submit a repeat PPD skin test
- c. Students in Category 4 should have an annual IGRA performed

6) Hepatitis B

- a. All students must receive a 3 dose series of Hepatitis B vaccination and have evidence of immunity documented by an antibody titer 1 – 2 months after the completion of the 3-dose series.
- b. If the student's titer remains negative after having had the first series of 3 Hepatitis B vaccinations, the student must undergo a second series of 3 Hepatitis B vaccinations. A repeat antibody titer will then be done 1-2 months after the completion of the 3-dose series. If the antibody titer remains negative, testing for active hepatitis B infection should be

conducted (HBsAg and Anti HBc). If active Hepatitis B infection is not present, the individual is considered to be a “non-responder.

- c. Students will be required to complete the Hepatitis B requirements by the end of the first year of enrollment.
- d. Students with documentation of at least one Hepatitis B vaccinations will be allowed to register for and attend classroom courses (courses with no exposure to blood or body fluids). Students may register for and attend clinical courses after documentation of the second Hepatitis B vaccination.

7) Polio

- a. If the student is not going to travel outside the western hemisphere it is not necessary to provide documentation of polio vaccination. However, if the student will be going on trips to Africa or Asia, then the student must be vaccinated or obtain a serologic study to document immunity to the three poliovirus serotypes (P1, P2, and P3).
- b. Students coming from Asia or Africa must provide documentation of vaccination against polio.

8) Flu Vaccine

- a. Students are encouraged to receive annual Flu vaccinations.
- b. Some colleges or clinical sites may require the flu vaccination for their students.
- c. Individuals are required to participate in UNMC related monitoring of Flu vaccination by confirming vaccination or declination using the electronic monitoring processes established by the University of Nebraska Medical Center.”