



# Student Health Policy

## **Background and Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to define policies, procedures and availability of health services for students enrolled in the physician assistant program.

## **Policy Statement:**

In compliance with standards cited below, the UC PA program:

1. Provides each enrolled student with information about health and wellness services available to all UC students as posted on the UC website.
2. Mandates all students provide proof of health insurance prior to matriculation and that their personal health insurance policy remain active throughout their participation in the program.
3. Requires students to be financially responsible for the cost of all health care services they may require while enrolled in the program, including any health care services required as a result of their participation in scheduled program activities (e.g. PPD testing, immunizations, injuries, pathogen exposure evaluation and treatment)
4. Mandates a health screening consisting of baseline tuberculosis screening in the form of a tuberculosis skin test (TST) or Quantiferon testing performed in accordance with CDC guidelines within one year prior to matriculation and again before beginning their clinical rotations. If the TST is positive, evaluation (and treatment if indicated) must be completed in accordance with CDC guidelines.
5. Requires students to obtain immunizations and/or provide record of immunization or serologic proof of immunity for those conditions required by the UC Immunization Policy and currently recommended by the [Centers for](#)

[Disease Control and Prevention for health-care personnel](#), to include:

- **Hepatitis B:** Must provide quantitative hepatitis B surface antibody (HBsAb) test results to validate immune status. If a student is a non-responder, the student will need to receive a hepatitis B booster vaccine followed by a second titer to validate immune status. If a student is still a non-responder, he or she will be required to complete the remainder of a second hepatitis B vaccination series and submit documentation of having received this second series.
- **Mumps:** Records of titer validating current immunity and/or 2-dose vaccine series being administered on schedule
- **Rubeola:** Records of titer validating current immunity and/or 2-dose vaccine series being administered on schedule
- **Rubella:** Records of titer validating current immunity and/or 1-dose MMR immunization
- **Varicella:** Records of titer validating current immunity and/or 2-dose vaccine series being administered on schedule. Note: History of previous infection is not sufficient evidence of immunity.
- **Tetanus/Pertussis:** Record of having received a Tdap vaccine within the past 10 years prior to matriculation. If students have passed the 10-year mark since their last Tdap vaccine prior to the start of their clinical year, they will be required to update their Tdap immunization and provide documentation.
- **Influenza:** Record of having received viral influenza immunization during the fall semester preceding matriculation. Students will be required to obtain and provide a record of influenza immunization by October 1st of each year while enrolled in the program.
- **Covid-19:** Record of being fully vaccinated for Covid-19 at least two weeks prior to matriculation.
  - Students may request a Covid-19 vaccine medical exemption. Students with an approved medical exemption must sign a liability waiver and will be required to have Covid-19 testing prior to the start of the semester and then weekly throughout the semester. For students with an approved vaccine exemption, quarantining will be required if they have high-risk contact with someone known to have Covid-19 as instructed by the local health department and the UC Virtual Command Center. Students with an immunization exemption may not be permitted to complete assigned clinicals at sites dependent on site-specific policies. If a student with an approved immunization exemption is assigned to a site that requires COVID-19 vaccination or other required vaccinations, they may need to be rescheduled to a different site

and/or at a later time based on preceptor/site availability. Such a situation could delay clinicals and/or graduation.

The University of Charleston PA program understands that the above list of immunizations is not exhaustive of all immunizations, and that each student should follow the recommendations of his or her health care provider for any additional immunizations, such as the Hepatitis A vaccination and Meningococcal vaccinations, both meningococcal conjugate and Serogroup B.

6. Requires students to provide a signed Release of Information authorizing the program to maintain a copy of their tuberculosis screening test results and record of immunizations in their program student records and authorizing the program to release that same information to all clinical sites to which they are assigned for program required supervised clinical practice experience (SCPE).
7. Does not permit the principal program faculty, program director, medical director, associate medical director, or program staff to participate as health care providers for students enrolled in the program or to have access to any student health information other than that defined in this policy.

### Documentation of Tuberculosis Screening and Immunization History

1. Records of tuberculosis screening, immunizations and proof of immunity must be primary source documentation as follows:
  - Copies of the applicant's medical record(s) on which administration and results of tuberculosis screening data is recorded.
  - Copies of the applicant's medical record(s) on which administration of the immunization series is documented by the immunization provider.
  - Copies of the laboratory report(s) documenting results of serologic testing for immunity (antibody test results)
  - Copies of the applicant's medical record(s) or a letter from the applicant's health care provider documenting immunization non-conversion and explaining the process by which that

conclusion was reached

2. Historical documentation without primary source evidence of tuberculosis screening, immunizations and/or serologic proof of immunity will not satisfy the program's documentation requirements.
3. Copies of medical records submitted to the program for documentation of tuberculosis screening, immunization history or serologic evidence of immunity must NOT include any other health information. Received records which contain any other medical information not directly related to immunization or tuberculosis screening will be returned to the sender.
4. All required immunizations and tuberculosis screening documentation described above is to be filed in section 1 of the Program Student File along with the signed Authorization for Release of Information. The program's Immunization Record and Pre-Clinical Training Clearance form will be filed in section 3 of the Student File.

## **ARC-PA Associated Standards:**

- A1.04 – The sponsoring institution must provide academic support and student services to PA students that are equivalent to those services provided to other comparable students of the institution.
- 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
  - b) written travel health policies based on then current CDC recommendations for international travel for programs offering elective international curricular components.
- A3.09 – The program must define, publish, make readily available and consistently apply policies that preclude principal faculty, the program director and the medical director from participating as health care providers for students in the program,

except in an emergency situation.

- A3.17 - Student academic records kept by the sponsoring institution or program, in a paper or electronic format, must be readily accessible to authorized program personnel and must include documentation:
  - b) that the student has met institution and program health screening and immunization requirements,
- A3.19 – Student health records are confidential and must not be accessible to or reviewed by program, principal or instructional faculty or staff except for immunization and screening results, which may be maintained and released with written permission from the student.