

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF MEDICINE MEDICAL STUDENT IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

These requirements apply to all students including those previously accepted to the College of Medicine or previously enrolled at UIC or UIUC.

WHY -- Immunizations are very important to medical students and health care workers. The University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine requires all students to meet high standards in demonstrating immunity. Up to date immunization records alone are **NOT** enough to meet our requirements.

HOW -- All matriculating students are required to provide the requested documented proof, using the Medical Student Pre-matriculation Immunization Requirements form, to the UIC COM Admissions Office, 808 S. Wood Street, Chicago, IL, fax 312-996-6693. Urbana-Peoria-Rockford track students are also encouraged to fax a copy of each document to Barbara Haegele at 217-333-2640. Students should keep a copy of all immunization records for their personal files.

WHEN -- While we know that health care coverage can be a factor as the costs of vaccinations and titers are not trivial, we recommend that students complete the immunization requirements as early as possible. If a titer shows inadequate immunity, vaccination(s) will be required and new titers cannot be drawn for some weeks afterward.

Requirements -- Pre-matriculation

Prior to matriculation, incoming first year medical students are required to provide a completed College of Medicine Medical Student Pre-matriculation Immunization Requirements form, verifying:

- proof of immunity, **verified by blood titer** (lab report required), to **Varicella** (chicken pox),
- dates of two **measles, mumps & rubella** vaccinations or immunity verified by blood titer,
- date for the first vaccination in the series for **Hepatitis B** (dates for subsequent vaccinations can be included if already completed, as can date and lab report of titer if completed),
- dates for the primary vaccination series for **polio** (at least three doses of polio vaccine); if three doses have NOT been received a booster or vaccination as an adult will be required,
- a 2 Step **tuberculin** skin test or Quantiferon-Gold blood test or equivalent interferon-based test within the last year (students with a previous history of a positive TB skin test must submit a chest X-ray taken within 12 months of matriculation and must follow up with the student health center at their site on an annual basis),
- a **Tetanus/ diphtheria** booster within the last ten years,
- one **Tdap** (tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid, and acellular pertussis vaccine), which is the only **adult** vaccine containing **pertussis**, anytime prior to matriculation.

Requirements -- Post-matriculation

Continuing medical students are required:

- to complete the series of three injections for **Hepatitis B** and provide documented proof of immunity verified by blood titer **before** they will be allowed to attend courses in the second year that will at any point involve patient contact,
- to obtain a **tetanus/ diphtheria** booster every ten years,
- and to complete annual **tuberculosis** screening.

Continuing medical students are strongly urged to obtain an **influenza** immunization every year. Some clerkships, away rotations, and residency programs may have additional pre-screening requirements such as drug testing so students should be proactive and check ahead. Students who wish to participate in overseas rotations will find that Hepatitis A vaccinations are often suggested and the two doses are to be given 6 months apart.

Consequences

Students who have not met these requirements [and have not previously received approval from the Dean of Student Affairs in Chicago or Urbana, as appropriate, for a religious or medical exemption] **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO HAVE PATIENT CONTACT, and will therefore be withdrawn from all courses with such contact.**

Immunization FAQ's

How do I know if my immunization records have been received and approved?

You can call the Immunization Office at UIC at 312-413-0464 or check online at <https://ims7.admin.uillinois.edu/webmediease> (you will need your Enterprise ID and secure password to access the system).

I've had all my immunizations. Why isn't my immunization history sufficient?

The College of Medicine immunization requirements are guided by recommendations for health care providers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and are designed to be as certain as possible that our medical students will be protected from infection (see "*what is a titer?*" below). In their junior and senior years, medical students will schedule clinical rotations as visiting students at hospitals not affiliated with our College of Medicine and must meet the immunity standards of those hospitals. Titers will be required in the majority of cases.

What is a titer?

A titer is a measure of concentration. The lab reports you must provide will report the concentration of antibodies you have in your blood. This is a very reliable way to demonstrate your immunity (or lack of immunity). It is possible to have been exposed to a disease and still not have adequate immunity to protect you from future infection.

I had chicken pox as a child. Do I still need a titer?

Requiring titers does go beyond the current recommendations of the CDC, however, the College of Medicine believes this is justified since titers give more reliable information than vaccination or disease history and because most of our students will be required to provide titers as juniors and seniors when they apply for clinical experience at other hospitals.

How long does a titer last?

Rubella and measles positive titers probably provide lifelong immunity, but we've learned over the past few years that children need boosters of the varicella vaccine, boosters will probably be necessary for mumps vaccine (unless someone has natural immunity), and hepatitis B protection from the vaccine is presumed lifelong but we don't really know with certainty.

I am confused by the different tests for TB.

The most common test for TB has many names – the TST (Tuberculin Sensitivity Test or Tuberculin Skin Test), the Mantoux test, the Pirquet test, or the PPD (Purified Protein Derivative) test. In this test a small intradermal injection is made and the result is read 48 to 72 hours later. The 2 step Tuberculin Skin Test follows the same procedure, but a second skin test is done within a few weeks of a negative test. This gives more reliable results for people such as health care workers who get tested regularly. The Quantiferon-Gold blood test is relatively new and not available as widely, but an advantage is that results can be available within 24 hours. Students who have had a positive skin test for tuberculosis within the last 12 months must provide evidence that they are free of active tuberculosis.

I just received my first vaccination in the series for Hepatitis B. What is the timing for the rest of my Hepatitis B requirements?

After receiving your first vaccination you must wait at least one month before you can receive the second. The third vaccination can be given no sooner than six months after the first. Finally, you need to wait at least one month after the third vaccination before blood can be drawn for your titer.

It sounds like this could be costly. Am I responsible for these costs?

Except for annual TB testing and flu vaccinations, students are responsible for the cost of immunizations and titers. Some costs might be covered by undergraduate health insurance, so check while you still have that option. Some services may be available at reduced costs through public health.