

# Information About Immunizations

**Please Read Before Completing your ["Record of Physical Examination Form"](#)**

**Students on rotations are required to adhere to ALL hospital/institutional policies at their respective sites. You must have documentation of immunizations prior to arrival at your site.**

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The [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) and [Occupational Safety and Healthcare Administration \(OSHA\)](#) recommendations, which govern hospital and healthcare institutional policy regarding students assigned to a clinical practicum with potential exposure to blood or bodily fluids (i.e. direct patient care or high risk areas), require students to have:

- Hepatitis B Vaccination
    - One of the following is acceptable
      - A positive surface antibody titer shown
      - The second shot (of three total shots) complete prior to patient exposure
      - Proof of immunization
      - [Documentation of declination of the immunization](#)
  - Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
    - One of the following is acceptable
      - A positive titer must be shown
      - Proof of Immunization
  - Tetanus and Diptheria must be given within the past 10 years
  - TB Skin Testing is required, annually; please make sure that your last TB skin test does not expire prior to completing your rotations
  - Varicella Zoster (Chicken-Pox) is **RECOMMENDED** for those individuals who do not have a reliable history of varicella disease or vaccination **OR** who are seronegative for varicella
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## **Hepatitis B**

During patient care activities, you are at risk for exposure to Hepatitis B virus. If you are in areas of potential blood exposures and/or bodily fluids of contaminated patients, you are at risk for contact with this virus. The CDC recommends that any health care or public safety worker at risk for exposure to contaminated blood and bodily fluids should be vaccinated. Although you are NOT required to be immunized against Hepatitis B, we strongly recommend you consider receiving this vaccination.

The vaccine is administered as a three dose series, with the first two doses given one month apart, and the third dose 5 months after the second. The approximate cost is \$50.00 per

injection. If you are considering receiving this vaccination, it is imperative that you begin the process, immediately. In order to be adequately immunized against Hepatitis B, you must receive the injection prior to starting your rotations.

In order to minimize the cost of this vaccination, consider the following:

- If you have health insurance, investigate the possibility of coverage of the vaccination
- If you work for a hospital or health care facility, inquire about receiving this vaccination through employee services (OSHA requires that this vaccination be made available to all EMPLOYEES who are at high risk of exposure at no charge)
- If you are local to Ohio Northern University, Gardner's Drug Store will provide the vaccination to you at their wholesale price and the Student Health Services will write the prescription and administer it at no additional cost.

### **Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)**

Young adults should be immune to measles, mumps, and rubella. In 1989, as a result of outbreaks in school/college settings, new recommendations were developed to implement a routine two-dose schedule for live MMR. Young adults who are attending college (or other post-high school educational institutions) who are newly employed in situations that place them at high risk for measles transmission (e.g. health care facilities) should have documentation of having received two doses of live MMR on or after their first birthday or other evidence of immunity.

For students born 1957 or after, acceptable evidence of measles immunity consists of documentation of two doses of a live measles vaccine (preferably MMR), given at least one year apart after their first birthday; documentation of physician-diagnosed measles; or laboratory evidence of immunity to measles.

Acceptable evidence of mumps/rubella immunity consists of documentation of at least one dose of live mumps and/or rubella-containing vaccine (preferably MMR), laboratory evidence of immunity, or physician-diagnosed mumps. Physician-diagnosis is NOT adequate evidence against rubella (i.e. if you have had the disease, this does not assure immunity).

MOST students are not adequately immunized against measles according to the new recommendations. MMR is the vaccine of choice. The MMR is relatively inexpensive and can be obtained through your family physician or by contacting your county health department. For those students living in Ada area, the Hardin County Health Department is in Ada every month, which allows for inexpensive MMR administration (i.e. \$3.00).

### **Diphtheria-Tetanus (DPT)**

All young adults should complete a primary series of diphtheria and tetanus toxoids IF THEY HAVE NOT DONE SO DURING CHILDHOOD. A primary series for adults is three doses of preparations containing diphtheria and tetanus toxoids. The first two doses should be given at least four (4) weeks apart and the third dose should be given 6-12 months after the second.

Those students who have completed a primary series should receive a booster dose every 10 years. Persons with unknown or uncertain histories of receiving diphtheria or tetanus toxoids should be considered unvaccinated and should receive a full three-dose primary series of DPT.

DPT is available from your local county health department or from your family physician. If you have not had a booster within the past 10 years, you must update your immunization prior to starting rotations.

### **Tuberculosis (TB)**

Tuberculin skin testing by the Mantoux method (utilizing 5 unites of Purified Protein Derivative - PPD) is required by all hospitals. Students **MUST** have a test prior to starting their rotations. Annual skin tests are **REQUIRED** pursuant to CDC guidelines!!! Please make sure your TB test does not expire prior to completing all of your rotations.

Students may receive a TB skin test through their family physician, the local county health department, or through the Ohio Northern University Student Health Center.

### **Varicella Zoster (Chicken-Pox)**

Persons of any age without a reliable history of varicella disease or vaccination, or who are seronegative for varicella are at high risk for contracting the virus. Consider vaccination if you are at risk.

### **Influenza**

The CDC recommends vaccination for any of the following health care workers:

- Those with chronic disorders of the cardiovascular or pulmonary systems requiring medical follow-up or hospitalization within the preceding year
- Those with chronic metabolic disorders (including diabetes), renal dysfunction, or hemoglobinopathies, or immunosuppression
- Those who are > 65 years of age