

Vaccines Q & A

Q. Do all programs in School of Health Sciences require the same vaccines?

A. Program requirements vary. Consult with your program director and/or program advisor to determine which vaccines are required by your specific program. For example: only students enrolled in the Veterinary Technician program are required to receive the rabies vaccine.

Q. If a physician or assistant writes a note stating the student is “up-to-date on all vaccines” is that acceptable?

A. Documentation requires health records that show specific *dates* of the diseases or specific *dates* when the vaccines were administered. Health records may be in the form of *original* vaccination records (or copies of the original records) or the required information may be provided by the *original* treating physician on an official letterhead, prescription form or the like with signature of the original treating physician. ‘School records’ or family testimonials are not acceptable.

Q. What should a student do if he/she cannot obtain the original health records to verify previous vaccines or history of disease?

A. If health records cannot be located, there are two options, 1) have blood tests (titers) to verify immunity or 2) be revaccinated. Each individual blood test must be ordered by a physician and performed by a diagnostic lab.

Q. What should the student do if blood titers how negative for antibodies?

A. The student must then be revaccinated.

Q. If blood titers are needed, which tests should be performed?

A. The CSN document [Laboratory Diagnostic Codes - Blood Titer to Test for Immunity](#) lists all the suggested diagnostic codes that a student may need.

Q. If a student “gets behind” in the vaccination series (varicella, MMR, Hep B) what should the student do?

A. It is generally recommended to pick up where the schedule left off and complete the series. Example: A person received two hepatitis B vaccine doses two years ago and never got the third. The third dose should be given to complete the series. If five years or more has elapsed, consider starting over, though this is not mandated by CSN.

Q. Can a student participate in clinical activities without all vaccines being up-to-date?

A. In order for a student to participate in clinical activities, he/she must have at least 2 doses of all vaccines, yet stay on schedule for the remaining doses. If the student is in an *accelerated program*, that program must get, in writing from all affiliate clinical sites permission to send students who have received a minimum of only one dose. *Students must stay on schedule to receive remaining doses or lose clinical privileges.*

Q. If a student receives a dose of vaccine earlier than the minimum interval recommended by CDC, is that acceptable?

A. No. The dose of vaccine is invalid and must be re-administered after the minimum interval. Example: If a student receives the third dose of hepatitis B vaccine 2-3 weeks before the recommended minimum interval (4 months between the first and third dose), the third dose must be re-administered using the correct interval.

Q. Will vaccines interfere with TB skin test (TST) results?

A. The MMR and varicella vaccines may interfere with the TST results if the vaccines are administered before the skin test. If MMR or varicella vaccines are administered BEFORE the TST, a minimum of 4 weeks must separate the vaccine from the TST. MMR and varicella vaccines can be administered at the same time, on the same day, or after the TST has been evaluated without interfering with the TST results. The hepatitis A, hepatitis B, tetanus and rabies vaccines can be administered any time without interfering with TST results. Be sure to consult with your healthcare provider to coordinate services.

Q. Can a pregnant student be vaccinated safely?

A. Some vaccines can be administered safely while pregnant, while other should be delayed. Consult with your physician to determine the best course of action.

Q. Can a pregnant student participate in clinical training at affiliate sites without being immunized?

A. A pregnant student can receive a temporary medical exemption and still participate in clinical experiences. [SEE CSN Vaccination Policy.](#)