

Infectious/Communicable Disease Policy and Procedures

Infectious/communicable diseases are common and may be a threat to students. During the performance of required clinical activities, students act as healthcare workers (HCWs) and are at risk for contracting and transmitting infectious diseases because of patient contact. The outlined health and immunization requirements protect both the well-being of the students and that of their patients. The immunization and health screening requirements for the program are based on the minimum current recommendations for HCWs by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as by UMKC affiliated hospitals and clinics.

During the performance of required clinical activities, students may have contact with patients with various infections such as blood borne transmitted disease (e.g., Hepatitis B [HBV], Hepatitis C [HCV], Human immuno-deficiency virus [HIV]), airborne transmitted disease (e.g., tuberculosis [TB], measles, varicella), droplet transmitted disease (e.g., influenza, pertussis, mumps) and contact transmitted disease (e.g., methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*). This contact may expose the student to infectious agents, and may result in the student transmitting an infectious disease to other students, faculty, patients, and/or family members. During pregnancy, the fetus may also be at risk depending on the infection (e.g., Varicella). To help protect the health and safety of its students, as well as that of patients, the School of Medicine requires students to adhere to, and provide documentation of:

- Initial and ongoing infectious disease screening and pre-exposure prophylactic immunization against specified infectious/communicable diseases,
- Training and education regarding environmental hazards and infectious exposures, and
- Post-exposure prophylactic follow-up/treatment following exposure to specified infectious diseases such as HBV, HIV, and tuberculosis, as necessary.

Immunization and Health Screening Requirements

Procedures

- Specified immunizations and health screenings are required for all students unless medically contraindicated (health care provider documentation must be provided and based on CDC contraindication guidelines).
- By submitting immunization records, the student authorizes UMKC to release the information in the UMKC School of Medicine records to affiliated hospitals or clinics where a student is rotating.
- Additional immunization and/or health screening requirements beyond those mandated by the program may be required by a clinical affiliate. If so, students will be made aware of additional requirements and will need to ensure compliance at their own cost, as necessary.
- Immunization and health screening requirements will be reviewed annually by the program to ensure they meet the most recent CDC recommendations and affiliate policies. Students will be notified of changes to the immunization policy and given direction on how to complete any additional requirements, as necessary.
- Students must provide proof of certain immunizations and health screenings prior to matriculation and clinical placement. Students are required to use the Student Health Immunization Form and required attachments to confirm initial compliance with the immunization and health screening requirements. A qualified health care provider (physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner) who is not related to the student must sign the form. After initial compliance is confirmed, laboratory results and other documents may be used to prove compliance of subsequent screenings and immunizations.

- If a student cannot meet the requirements, the student may be prevented from fulfilling the mandatory requirements for graduation if it prevents a student from rotating in affiliated hospitals or clinics.

Students must provide proof of screening, vaccination, and/or immunity for the following:

Tuberculosis (TB) - TB screening procedures vary based on a student's immunization/disease history.

- Students who do not have a history of TB infection/disease or have not had positive TB test results in the past (regardless of BCG vaccination status) are required to have an initial two-step TB skin test (TST) (provided by school). Annual testing is required thereafter. If a student refuses the TB skin test, he/she may have a TB blood test (T spot) at his/her own expense.
- Students who have a **positive history of TB disease** must provide documentation of positive TB skin test (TST) results and TB treatment, and must complete the medical school's TB symptoms form upon matriculation. Students must also complete the symptoms form annually. Based on results of the symptoms form additional action may be required.
- Students who have **tested positive for TB infection and have not had the BCG vaccination** must provide documentation of positive TB skin test (TST) results, a negative two-view chest x-ray, and must complete the medical school's TB symptoms form upon matriculation. Students must also complete the symptoms form annually. An additional negative two-view chest x-ray is required within six months of the student's first rotation at Children's Mercy Hospital and Clinics. Based on results of the symptoms form additional action may be required.
- Students who have **tested positive for TB infection and have had the BCG vaccination** must provide documentation of positive TB skin test (TST) results and a negative TB blood test (T spot or IGRA). Students must complete the program symptoms form annually. Based on results of the symptoms form additional action may be required. If a student tests positive on the IGRA, a two-view chest x-ray is required and the student will complete the program symptoms form annually. An additional negative two-view chest x-ray is required within six months of the student's first rotation at Children's Mercy Hospital and Clinics. Based on results of the symptoms form additional action may be required.

Influenza (Flu)- Annual immunization with the current season influenza vaccine is required.

Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis (Tdap/Td)- Evidence of one dose of Tdap within 10 years of all program activities. If student has received Td only, then a one-time dose of Tdap must be administered. A subsequent Td booster vaccine is required every 10 years.

Measles, Mumps, & Rubella (MMR)- Students born after 1957 must show immunity through documentation of a series of two doses of MMR vaccine (must be administered at least one month apart) **OR** laboratory evidence of immunity via positive antibody titer results. Students with negative or indeterminate antibody titer results will be required to complete the vaccination series.

Varicella (chickenpox)- Evidence of immunity is documentation of two doses of the varicella vaccine (administered at least 28 days apart with the last dose completed at least two weeks prior to clinical start date) **OR** laboratory evidence of immunity via positive antibody titers. Students with negative or indeterminate antibody titer results will be required to complete the vaccination series.

Hepatitis B- Evidence of immunity is documentation of three Hepatitis B vaccines. (The second injection administered at least 28 days after the first injection, and the third injection must be administered 6

months after the first injection or 5 months after the second injection) **OR** laboratory evidence of immunity via positive antibody titer (titer must be obtained at least 30 days after the third injection). Students with negative or indeterminate antibody titer results will be required to complete the vaccination series and repeat an antibody titer 1-2 months after the third dose of the second series.

References:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Updated February 6, 2017.) Adult Immunization Schedule.
- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/adult.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Updated April 20, 2017.) Recommended Vaccines for Healthcare Workers.
- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/hcw.html>

After matriculation, students may obtain these vaccines, tests, and exams through UMKC Student Health and Wellness or a health care provider of their choice. Annual requirements for the School of Medicine (TST screens and flu shots) will be provided at no cost when obtained through Concentra (the medical school's contracted provider). Other services, including chest x-rays, are paid for by the student or their health insurance. To receive services covered by UMKC at Concentra, students must be approved, and follow the guidelines and instructions outlined by the program. Notification of approval to receive services from Concentra will be emailed to the student by the Records Coordinator or designated personnel. Students in Kansas City may only receive services at the Crossroads Concentra location at 200 Southwest Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64108. Students rotating at clinical sites outside of the Greater Kansas City area may access other Concentra locations, however, when these services must be coordinated through the UMKC medical school's Records Coordinator or the appropriate personnel.

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