

Immunization Requirements
for students in the Division of Clinical Laboratory Science
Department of Allied Health Sciences
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

NC Requirements: NC state law requires that all students entering college submit documentation of certain immunizations, including:

- 3 doses of Diphtheria, Tetanus, and/or Pertussis; *one dose must have been within the past 10 years*
- 3 doses of Polio
- 2 doses of Measles & Mumps, or laboratory evidence of immunity
- 1 dose of Rubella, or laboratory evidence of immunity

Deadline: Failure to document the state-mandated immunizations within 30 days after classes begin will result in cancellation of registration.

Health Affairs Requirements: In addition to the above, students in the Health Affairs Schools at UNC must submit documentation of:

- 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine **plus** a positive *quantitative* titer
- 2 doses of Varicella vaccine, *or* laboratory evidence of immunity
- A negative "2-step" Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) or other approved screening test for tuberculosis, *or*, if you have ever had a positive TST, an Evaluation of a Reactive Tuberculin Skin Test
- A Tdap vaccine (regardless of time since the last tetanus/diphtheria immunization, effective January 2011)

Deadline: The Division of Clinical Laboratory Science requires that students complete the additional immunizations prior to beginning clinical rotations. (Tuberculin Skin Testing should be performed just prior to rotations.)

Clinical Site Requirements: Clinical sites may also require additional immunizations, such as the seasonal flu vaccine. Students will be notified of such requirements as we are made aware of them.

The table below may be used to document immunizations and titers, or students may submit other documentation (e.g., CHS record) which includes the same information. (Tuberculin Skin Testing is documented on a separate form.)

Student Name		PID	
	Date(s) of vaccine administration	Titer result (pos or neg) & date	
Tdap			
Tetanus/ Diphtheria (most recent, if Tdap was not within the past 10 years)			
Hepatitis B (must document 3 doses AND a positive <i>quantitative</i> titer)	1: 2: 3:		
Varicella (must document vaccination OR a positive titer)	1: 2:		
Physician or Nurse verifying information (signature or stamp, address, and date of verification)			

More specific information about satisfying these requirements may be found at <http://campushealth.unc.edu> (Click "Medical Services" and then "Immunizations").

Immunization Questions and Answers

Q: What if I do not have documentation of any or all of my vaccinations?

A: First, contact your physician's office and ask them to check your medical records. They may be able to provide you with documentation of vaccinations you have received. If not, you should have a titer (blood test for antibodies) drawn. You will need a separate test for each disease for which you do not have documentation of immunization. A positive titer proves that you have immunity to the disease. **Please note that for Hepatitis B, you **must** have documentation of all three doses of vaccine **and** a titer.**

Q: What if I never received one or more of the required immunizations because I had the illness?

A: You will need to have a titer drawn to prove that you have immunity to the disease.

Q: What if I have a titer drawn and it is negative?

A: Generally, you will need to receive the vaccine again. Let us know as soon as possible if this occurs.

Q: Where can I get the vaccinations I need?

A: You may receive immunizations at Campus Health Services, from your local health department, or from your primary care provider.

Q: What if I cannot complete all the required immunizations before entering the program?

A: The "NC Requirements" are required for attendance at UNC- Chapel Hill. Failure to document these immunizations within 30 calendar days of matriculation can result in your withdrawal from the University. Documentation of the additional "Health Affairs Requirements" are required before you begin your clinical rotations, in the second year of the program. You should bring the documentation you have with you to orientation, and complete any requirements that are lacking before clinical rotations begin.

Q: I received one or two shots of the Hepatitis B vaccine earlier, but did not complete the three dose series. Do I need to start the series over?

A: No. If the Hepatitis B series is delayed, it does not have to be restarted. Studies show that the immune response is not affected by the delay. The second dose may be administered anytime at least one month after the first. The third dose may be administered anytime at least two months after the second and at least four months after the first. Remember that you must receive a titer at least 1 month after completing the series.

Q: I had the Hepatitis B series years ago. Will my titer be valid?

A: Ideally, a titer should be drawn 1-6 months after completion of the Hepatitis B vaccine series to document that you have responded to the vaccine and developed immunity. After 6 months, antibody levels begin to drop, and eventually they may be too low to detect, even if you did respond. However, you should still have the titer drawn. Many people maintain detectable levels of antibody for years after vaccination, so your titer may still be positive. If your titer is negative, you will need to follow the CLS protocol for negative titer.

Q: I had a tuberculin skin test in the past. Do I really need another?

A: It is not necessary to get a TST before entering the program, since you will not be exposed to patients in the first year. However, tuberculosis (TB) screening is an annual requirement for healthcare professionals, including students, in patient-care settings, so you will need to get a TST prior to beginning clinical rotations. It is advisable for students to schedule TB screening approximately 2 months before the start of clinical rotations, so that the screening does not have to be repeated before rotations end. For most students, the initial screening will consist of a "2-step" TST, though in some cases, a blood test is preferable for screening. (Campus Health can advise you of the best method for screening for you personally.) If you have ever had a positive skin test, you should NOT have another TST. Instead, you should contact your healthcare provider for further evaluation. Documentation of the provider's evaluation will satisfy the TB screening requirement. Students will receive more information prior to beginning clinical rotations.

Q: What is a 2-step tuberculin skin test and why do I need it?

A: A "2-step" TST means that you get two tests, one week to one month apart. This reduces the chance of a false-negative interpretation, and is recommended by the CDC for "...for the initial skin testing of adults who are going to be retested periodically, such as health care workers..." In accordance with this recommendation, students who have not been tested within the previous 12 months (and have not had a previous positive result) will be required to have a 2-step test.

For more information:<http://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/factsheets/testing/skintesting.pdf>