

Immunization Policy  
College of Pharmacy  
University of Florida

Date: August 2013

All students must document their immunization status prior to matriculation in the College of Pharmacy. Students must indicate on the appropriate form (available in the Office for Student Affairs) their history of acquired or natural immunity to the following diseases: measles, mumps, rubella, varicella (chickenpox), diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, and hepatitis B. Pertussis immunization can be update with a tetanus – diphtheria-pertussis combination toxoid/vaccine combination product. Varicella immunization consists for two injections of vaccine. Proof of past varicella infection must appear in the medical record and confirmed by a physician's statement on office letterhead. Antibody titer to varicella infection is also an acceptable method to document immunity against varicella infection. The above immunization are required prior to enrollment in the College of Pharmacy and must be updated accordingly prior to entry into IPPE and APPE courses.

The hepatitis B series consists of three injections and should be started before entering the College of Pharmacy. Hepatitis B immunization must be completed by March 1 of the first professional year. On admission, all students must show proof of a recent (within the past 6 months) tuberculosis skin test (PPD or Tine test). Students must be immunized against the influenza flu virus each year by December 1.

The expense for all immunizations and TB skin tests is the responsibility of the student. All pharmacy students must be tested for exposure to tuberculosis on an annual basis. In addition, all pharmacy students must participate in an annual training program for tuberculosis and blood borne pathogen prevention measures. The arrangements for the annual training program will be announced through the Office for Experiential Programs.

Blood titers against selected viruses and bacterial may be required by certain hospitals in the Introductory and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience courses (IPPE and APPE).

Prior to APPE coursework, students must file results of a two-step TB skin test with the Office for Student Affairs by deadline designated. A TB skin test is also required at the end of APPE courses. The results of this skin test must be turned into the Office for Student Affairs to insure certification for graduation. For students with a positive TB skin test, a chest x-ray and/or documentation by a physician that the student is free of TB infection is required prior to beginning classes in the College of Pharmacy and prior to and after APPE courses. Chest x-rays are not necessary if the student provides documentation from a physician that they are asymptomatic and have had no evidence of TB by chest x-ray within the past year. Students may petition to be exempted from immunizations and TB skin tests for medical or religious reasons.

In summary,

- Documented tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis immunization on admission within last 10 years and coverage through time in the College of Pharmacy (DPT required every ten years)
- Documented measles, mumps, and rubella immunizations (two immunizations)
- Update on polio immunization series
- Update on varicella protection (varicella immunization times two or blood titer or documented case in medical record confirmed by physician note on office letterhead)
- Hepatitis B immunization series (three immunizations completed by March 1 of first professional year at the latest)
- Influenza immunization each year by Dec. 1.
- Meningococcal immunization is optional

- Two-step TB skin test or chest x-ray with medical documentation of asymptomatic state or quantiferon TB gold blood test within 6 months of admission and on an annual basis
- Blood/fluid borne pathogen prevention certification annually