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IMMUNIZATION FAQ's

Faculty immunization requirements are listed in the “Policies on Communicable Diseases and Immunizations for Undergraduate Pharmacy Students”.

General

Q. *Where can I find my immunization information?*

A. Your immunization records are available either from your physician, elementary/high school or by contacting the Association of Public Health Units in your area; <http://www.cpha.ca/en/about/offices.aspx>

Q. *Is the yellow immunization record accepted as proof of immunization?*

A. It is not, you still require the Immunization Record form to be completed and signed by a Health Care Professional. You can however include a photocopy with your form.

Q. *Where can I get my immunizations?*

A. You can get immunizations at any physician's office or at the UofT Student Health Services.

Q. *Do I have to take a copy of my immunization documentation to my site?*

A. Some institutional sites require that students produce immunization documentation. **All students are to keep a copy of their immunization documentation** in case it is requested at their site.

Q. *If I have to submit my vaccination documentation to the Faculty anyway, why can't the Faculty send my information to the sites that require it?*

A. Due to the confidential nature of this information, students are responsible for providing sites with their own immunization documentation.

Tuberculosis Testing

Q. *Is the Mantoux test and Tb test the same thing?*

A. Yes.

Q. *What does a 2-step Tb test involve?*

A. Two injections approximately 1-3 weeks apart. Each injection is 'read' after 48-72 hours.

Q. *I have never had a Tb test before. My health care professional thinks that only one step is necessary, do I need to have the second step?*

A. You need a documented two-step test. Each year thereafter is a one-step test.

Q. *The first step of my 2-step Tb test is negative. Do I have to have the 2nd step?*

A. Yes. A single Tb test may elicit little response, but a second test anytime from one week to one year later may elicit a much greater response. This 'booster effect' may indicate a past Tb infection.

Q. *I had a documented 2-step Tb test done previously. Do I need to have another 2-step test this year?*

A. No. If you had a two-step test done at any time and this is documented, you only need a one-step test this year.

Q. *My recent Tb test was positive. Is this unusual?*

A. Every year a number of students discover that their Tb tests are positive. A positive test doesn't necessarily mean that you have Tb, but you may have been exposed to it in the past. Your MD will determine whether treatment is required, based on your chest x-ray and size of reaction to the test.

Q. *What documentation do I submit if my Tb test is positive?*

A. See "Policies on Communicable Disease and Immunizations for Pharmacy Students".

Titres (measles, mumps, rubella (MMR))

Q. *If I only have documentation of one MMR dose, do I need another dose?*

A. Yes. It is now a requirement to have documentation of two doses of MMR.

Q. *Do I require titres if I have proof of immunization?*

A. If you provided proof of immunization (two doses), titres are not required.

Q. *How long does it take to get the results of titres?*

A. It usually takes about 3-4 weeks. Therefore, you should take this into consideration, to ensure all documentation is complete by the deadline.

Q. *If any of my MMR titre results are "indetermined" do I need to be vaccinated?*

A. Yes you need be vaccinated.

Q. *Can I be cleared for registration if I can prove that I had my titres done, but I am waiting for the results?*

A. No. All documentation must be complete for students to be cleared for registration.

Polio

Q. *If I do not have proof of my polio booster series, what can I do?*

A. It is recommended that you receive a booster and provide proof of booster.

Chicken Pox (Varicella Zoster)

Q. *What kind of documentation do I need for chicken pox?*

You must have 2 documented doses of the vaccine or positive titre results for antibodies. The results of the titre must be documented on the immunization record. A history of chicken pox is no longer sufficient.

Hepatitis B

Q. *Do I require a HepB titre if I received the HepB series shots?*

A. A titre is required. Students must have lab evidence of immunity. If students are non-immune, further testing is required (see details on immunization record).

Q. *What if I find out that I'm a hepatitis B carrier?*

A. Your health care professional will counsel you on safety issues, precautions etc. In addition, the "Policies on Communicable diseases and Immunization for Pharmacy Students" state that you must notify the Associate Dean if you have a communicable disease (Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Tb or HIV infection).

Influenza Vaccine

Q. *Do I require the 'flu vaccine'?*

A. The influenza vaccine is **strongly** recommended. Many institutional sites **require** that all their personnel receive the 'flu vaccine'. Keep a copy of your vaccination record in case it is required by the site. Students who choose not to have an annual influenza vaccination should be aware that they may be limited from clinical placements in hospitals.

Q. *Can I have my 'flu' shot in the summer?*

A. No. Influenza vaccine is not available until about October each year.