

UAMS Academic Affairs Policy - 1.4.2



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

Policy: University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Division of Academic Affairs
Subject: Student Health Screening
Number: 1.4.2

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to help minimize potential exposure to infectious disease for or by UAMS students who are enrolled in classes at UAMS.

SCOPE

All UAMS students who are enrolled in classes at UAMS.

DEFINITIONS

- A) New Student** — A student not previously enrolled in an education program / plan at UAMS. This includes applicants who have been accepted by their program and/or college and will enroll for coursework at UAMS.
- B) Continuing Student** — A student who is in an active status and has not officially withdrawn from his/her academic program.
- C) Dual degree/dual enrollment Student** – A student who is enrolled in more than one academic program concurrently.
- D) MMR**--The MMR vaccine is a "3-in-1" vaccine that protects against measles, mumps, and rubella.
- E) SEHS** — Student and Employee Health Services
- F) Tdap** — The adult vaccine that protects against Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis
- G) GUS** – The student information system at UAMS: Gateway for UAMS Students.

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POLICY

D) NEW STUDENTS' TB TEST AND IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT

- A. Newly enrolled students are required to submit a Student Pre-enrollment Health Screening Form (PREN) along with documentation of requirements to Student and Employee Health Services (SEHS)*. The PREN includes information on TB tests/screenings and immunizations. This documentation must reflect the student's current health information; therefore, the PREN must be dated not more than 180 days prior to the first day of class for the program in which the student is enrolled and must be submitted to SEHS via the GUS portal no less than 30 days prior to the first day of class** for the program in which the student is enrolled. Enrollment is contingent on pre-enrollment form compliance or exemption verification. Students who do not submit timely documentation will be blocked from enrollment and are subject to withdrawal or dismissal.

***100% Online Program Students:** Students enrolled in 100% online programs without clinical placements are not required to submit the PREN. The **program** must be approved as 100% online for exemption to the policy. If a student takes courses online, that does not exempt them from the PREN requirement.

****Late Admission Students:** Those students admitted into a program less than 30 days prior to matriculation must submit documentation to SEHS within 30 days of matriculation. Students not in compliance with these requirements within 30 days of matriculation are subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

- B. Dual degree/dual enrollment students will have health compliance requirements evaluated under the primary program enrollment and are then subject to annual monitoring as continuing students. This record serves for any additional program enrollments as long as student meets criteria for continuing enrollment meaning enrolled within the last ten (10) years as long as their student health record is on file at SEHS.

- C. TB Test and Immunizations required are:

- 1) Two (2) MMR vaccines after first birthday (at least one month apart) or laboratory evidence of positive measles, mumps, and rubella titers.
- 2) Tdap vaccine given within the last ten (10) years.
- 3) All students are required to provide three (3) Hepatitis B vaccines or (2) doses of Heplisav-B per recommended dosing schedule, OR laboratory evidence of hepatitis B surface antibody (anti-HBs).

NOTE: A positive titer is not required, but it is strongly recommended that those students who perform tasks that may involve exposure to blood and body fluids complete serologic testing of hepatitis B surface antibody (anti-HBs) to evaluate

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immunity. For those recently vaccinated this testing should occur one to two months after dose #3 of a 3-dose series or after dose #2 of the Heplisav-B series. If serologic testing is negative, the student should receive an additional 1-3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine (or 1-2 doses of Heplisav-B formulation) followed by serologic testing. Those who are negative after completing a second dosing series and serologic testing should be considered non-responders. This recommendation is not required for compliance, but strongly recommended by UAMS and consistent with CDC recommendations for healthcare providers at risk of blood/body fluid exposure. SEHS will support monitoring and counseling for next steps in the process for students who choose to complete this evaluation of immunity.

- 4) Students must show documentation of two (2) doses of Varicella vaccine (at least one month apart), or laboratory evidence of positive varicella titer.
- 5) COVID-19 - Vaccination for COVID-19 is not required, but it is strongly encouraged for all students. Up-to-date vaccination for COVID-19 is one dose of updated, bivalent vaccine. Though students are not required to be vaccinated, UAMS is required to report the proportion of healthcare personnel, including students, who are vaccinated for COVID-19. To support this required reporting, students must upload documentation of COVID-19 vaccination (any and all doses) OR a statement to attest that they have not been vaccinated.
- 6) All new students must have a baseline TB screening, including those with prior Bacille Calmette Guerin (BCG) vaccination. For students with NO history of a positive test, negative IGRA (T-spot or Quantiferon-Gold) or negative two-step TB skin tests within (12) months of the anticipated date of matriculation are required. The definition of a two- step TB skin test can be found on the CDC website listed in References.

NOTE: Students joining UAMS from a United States medical, academic, state, or federal organization may provide written documentation from that organization (must be on formal letterhead and include the name and address of the organization, contact information, dates and results of testing, and annual screening) of: a two-step TB testing (TST) or IGRA (preferred) AND ongoing annual TB medical screening for the immediate period before enrollment at UAMS.

Additional information regarding TB testing procedures detailed in Administrative Guide #4. 5.18 including steps for positive results includes:

- a) New students with reported positive IGRA or TB Skin Tests must provide a current health card from the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) dated within twelve months prior to the first day of class. SEHS will obtain a current symptom screening checklist. For students that do not yet have an ADH health card, students must submit a) the positive result from either the blood test or skin test (must include millimeters of reading), b) treatment letter from the provider or health unit where treatment was offered, AND c) chest X-ray within the last 3 months as a digital copy on CD or flash drive. SEHS will facilitate the health card process with ADH.

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- b) Students with positive IGRA or TB skin test will be asked if they have completed an adequate course of treatment for latent TB infection.
 - c) Students with radiographic finding consistent with active TB disease will be required to seek additional evaluation and/or treatment to ensure the student does not pose a risk of TB infection to others. The student will be notified by UAMS Infection Prevention department and or Student and Employee Health Services and instructed to remove themselves from the workplace/classroom until, a) a diagnosis of TB is ruled out OR, b) a diagnosis of TB is established, the student receives treatment, and a determination has been made that the student is non-infectious. **Only** the Tuberculosis Control for the State of Arkansas, or his designee, may determine the adequacy of a course of treatment or documentation of treatment for an active case of TB disease.
- 7) **Exceptions to Health Screening Requirements** - Students with existing medical conditions which prohibit them from participating in the TB test or immunizations must contact SEHS. Arrangements will be made to complete the annual medical screening requirements or waive the requirement. If a student disagrees with the decision of the SEHS, he/she may elect to secure a second opinion at his or her own expense. Results must be presented to SEHS within two weeks of notification to SEHS of the student's request for a second opinion. If the two medical opinions disagree, Student and Employee Health's Medical Director will make the final determination on the medical status of the student. The determination of the Medical Director will be reported to the student in writing, within two weeks following receipt of the second opinion.

D. New Students Responsible for Costs of Immunizations

Students are responsible for the costs associated with the initial TB tests, and all immunizations/titers except the annual influenza immunization. These services may be provided at Preventive Occupational Environmental Medicine (POEM) clinic but students will be charged.

II) CONTINUING STUDENTS' IMMUNIZATIONS AND TB TESTS

- A.** Annual medical screenings will minimally consist of a review of immunization compliance, a medical questionnaire and a TB symptom screening and education for all students. SEHS will enter information into GUS and will audit compliance status. Students not in compliance may be blocked from enrollment and are subject to dismissal.
- B.** Students who have withdrawn and re-enrolled at UAMS within the last ten (10) years and whose health records are on file at SEHS are regarded as "continuing students" for the purpose of this policy as long as their student health record is on file at SEHS.
 - 1. Continuing students are expected to stay up to date on health screening

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requirements described in this policy. Students who do not comply will be blocked from future enrollment, including pre- and early enrollment.

2. Student and Employee Health will notify all students monthly who are not compliant with health requirements.

III) INFLUENZA – ALL STUDENTS

A. Seasonal influenza vaccine (or novel influenza vaccine if recommended by the Center for Disease control) (INACTIVATED) will be required annually for all UAMS students. Student and Employee Health will provide inoculations free of charge to UAMS students according to a published schedule each academic year. Typically, flu shots become available in the fall (October).

1. Students unable to comply for specific reasons may be subject to special requirements such as wearing protective masks and/or coverings during influenza season or other infectious outbreaks. Influenza season and other infectious outbreaks will be defined by the UAMS University Hospital Infection Control Committee chair or his/her designee.
2. Those unwilling to comply with special requirements may be reassigned or suspended from class at the discretion of the appropriate hospital division director, clinical director, education program director, or at the request of Hospital administration for a period to be determined by the chairman of the Infection Control Committee.
3. **Exceptions:** Those who have had anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of influenza vaccine. Risk of influenza infection from the INACTIVATED vaccine is zero for any person, pregnant or otherwise. Individuals who received live flu vaccine should not have contact with immunocompromised patients for seven days. Those who have not received the vaccination due to medical or religious exemption will be required to wear a mask.

IV) ADDITIONAL SCREENINGS THAT MAY BE RECOMMENDED BASED ON PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Audiology Screening – Required for those exposed to loud noises during their training duties.
- B. Research Animal Screening – Required for those who may have exposure to research animals, including their blood, body fluids or dander, or areas where the animals may be located.
- C. Color Vision Deficiency Screening – Required for those who must interpret test results based on color or whose job requires the ability to differentiate different colors or hues of colors.

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- D. Additional infectious disease vaccinations such as Hepatitis A or Meningococcus for those at risk of exposure

V) OTHER FACILITIES THAT PROVIDE STUDENT INSTRUCTION

Health care facilities that provide instruction to UAMS students may require additional tests, physical examinations or immunizations. Because the use of these facilities is a part of the curriculum and essential to health professions education, students should be prepared to comply with the policies and procedures at any facility where they engage in rotations or learning experiences at their own expense. Students are expected to attend all training sites as assigned and to comply with all applicable policies of each respective site. Failure to attend or to adhere to all applicable policies may be cause for dismissal from the program.

VI) RECORDS

All medical records, including the results of all medical screenings are considered confidential by SEHS. All medical records will be updated by SEHS within 30 days after matriculation. These medical records are not considered a part of the student's academic record but will be maintained permanently as a medical record by SEHS. Students may access their immunization and TB screening records through GUS.

VII) STUDENTS OFF-CAMPUS

Students located outside of Pulaski County may not have access to the SEHS offices on the UAMS main campus. These students may visit a local Regional Campus unit, their private physician, or health care clinic such as an urgent/preventative care facility at their own expense. All required documentation must be provided to SEHS.

VIII) COMPLIANCE

- A. Students who remain non-compliant will be blocked from enrolling in any future coursework by the Office of the University Registrar, including pre- or early enrollment opportunities.
- B. Students who fail to comply after 30 days will be subject to disciplinary action as defined in Academic Affairs Policy 2.2.13 - Administrative Withdrawal and Dismissal. Additionally, colleges may elect to issue a code of conduct violations against the student, up to and including dismissal from the program. This applies to new and continuing students.

IX) STUDENTS ENROLLED IN 100% ONLINE PROGRAMS

Students who are enrolled in 100% online programs without clinical placements are exempt from all SEHS requirements described above. The **program** must be approved as 100% online to receive the exemption. If a student takes courses online, that does not exempt them from the PREN requirement.

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X) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If a student disagrees with the medical screening report, he or she may elect to secure a second opinion at this or her own expense. Results must be presented to SEHS within two weeks of notification to SEHS of the student's request for the second opinion. If the two medical opinions disagree, UAMS Medical Center's Medical Director will make the final determination on the medical status of the student. The determination of the Medical Director will be reported to the student and SEHS, in writing, within two weeks following receipt of the second opinion.

XI) PROTECTIVE MASK COMPLIANCE

Students with an approved medical or religious exemption must wear protective masks and/or coverings while on campus during influenza season or other infectious outbreaks as directed by Infection Prevention. Influenza season and other infectious outbreaks will be defined by the UAMS University Hospital Infection Control Committee chair or their designee. Those unwilling to comply with special requirements may be reassigned or suspended from class at the discretion of the appropriate hospital division director, clinical director, education program director, or at the request of Hospital Administration for a period to be determined by the chairman of the Infection Control Committee.

XII) STUDENTS WITH KNOWN BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS

Students with a known Blood Borne pathogen are required to disclose information to their college's dean office and follow the procedures and disclosure forms laid out in Academic Affairs Policy 2.2.6 Non-Discrimination in Admission and Retention of Students Known to be infected with a Blood Borne Pathogen (With or Without symptoms).

STANDARDS

Health screening standards at UAMS will reflect recommendations set by the Centers for Disease Control, found in its Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule for Health Care Workers and the Hospital Infection Control Practices Advisory Board.

REFERENCES

- Healthcare Personnel Medical Screening Policy, Administrative Guide, #4.5.18
- Administrative Withdrawal and Dismissal Policy, Academic Affairs #2.2.13
- UAMS Policy of Non-Discrimination in Admission and Retention of Students Known to be infected with a Blood Borne Pathogen (With or Without symptoms), Academic Affairs Policy, #2.2.6
- CDC website "TB Screening and Testing of Health Care Personnel"
<https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/testing/healthcareworkers.htm>