



Ambulatory Clinic Policy and Procedure

Title: INFECTION CONTROL SCREENING: NEW EMPLOYEE, STUDENT, VISITOR	Policy Number: EP 7.1
Regulation Reference: Texas Administrative Code (TAC)	Effective Date: 01/2025

Policy Statement:

It is the purpose of this policy to provide/maintain a safe environment for both patients and healthcare workers by following recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), and the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) as guidelines to reduce the risk of preventable diseases.

Scope and Distribution:

This policy applies and will be distributed to all Texas Tech Physicians of El Paso (TTP EP) ambulatory clinics.

Review:

This plan is provided to include the most current recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention "vaccine preventable diseases".

The appointed Infection Preventionist, in consultation with the Infection Control Committee Members, will review this TTP EP Policy on June 1 of every even-numbered year.

Definitions:

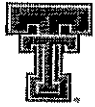
Health Care Personnel (HCP): A paid or unpaid clinical or non-clinical individual who has the potential for exposure to patients and/or infectious material found on body substances, contaminated air, devices, environmental surfaces, equipment or medical supplies.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Devices worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries or illnesses.

Visitors: An individual who is on campus for two weeks or more.

Procedure:

1. Texas Tech Physicians of El Paso requires new healthcare personnel (HCP) who have direct patient contact to be screened for vaccine preventable diseases prior to new employee orientation or no later than the first week of employment.
2. Vaccines known to reduce the risk of transmitting preventable diseases is listed below. The list is based on regulations, guidelines and recommendations from the Texas



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Administrative Code (TAC), Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- a. Hepatitis B
- b. Influenza
- c. Measles
- d. Mumps
- e. Rubella
- f. Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap)
- g. Varicella

3. It is highly recommended for HCP to have these immunizations based on the risk they have due to routine and direct exposure to other employees, patients and/or visitors.
4. The Infection Control Health Screening process is conducted by the Office of Occupational Health (OH). They will verify HCP received the appropriate series of vaccines or presented documentation from blood titers showing immunity against the preventable diseases listed above. HCP must also provide current Tuberculosis (TB) testing status during this screening process.

NOTE: Cost responsibilities is explained further in HSCEP OP 75.11B, Health Surveillance Program for TTUHSC El Paso – Immunizations.

5. Healthcare personnel have the option to decline any or all of the vaccines outlined in section 2 of this policy. HCP who declines any immunizations or TB testing, must sign a declination form that can be obtain through the Office of Occupational Health.
6. Personnel who decline vaccines for medical conditions identified as contraindications or precautions listed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention must use required personal protective equipment (PPE) in order to protect others in the workplace.
 - a. PPE includes, but not limited to, gloves and masks.
 - b. If declining the annual Influenza vaccine, a mask is required during the flu season.
7. TTP EP will not discriminate or retaliate against an individual who is exempt or declines the recommended vaccines due to contraindications or precautions identified by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention or by Texas State Department Health Services.
8. HCP must receive clearance by the Office of Occupational Health as part of the onboarding process no later than the first week of employment.
9. The Office of Occupational Health will maintain and update all written or electronic records of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center of El Paso employees, students and visitors for compliance with or exemption from this policy.