



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER EL PASO

Operating Policy and Procedure

HSCEP OP: 75.11B, Health Surveillance Program for TTUHSC El Paso - Immunizations

1. Reference(s):

- Immunization requirements are based on regulations, guidelines and recommendations available:
 - a. Covered individuals must comply with Healthcare Worker Vaccination Recommendations from the CDC
 - b. 25 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 97.64 "Required Vaccinations for Students Enrolled in Health-Related and Veterinary Courses in Institutions of Higher Education."
 - c. Texas Education Code.

2. Baseline (preplacement) screening.

- All TTUHSC El Paso New employees, students and volunteers are required to complete an Infection Control Health Screening prior to the individual beginning work or site visits.
- New personnel will be screened at TTUHSC El Paso's Occupational Health Department prior to any patient contact. Preferably, screening should be completed before new employee orientation or during first week of employment. Visitors will be screened prior to start date on campus.
- The department responsible/sponsoring a visitor/student or employee will notify the individual to go to Occupational Health for Infection Control Screening and provide immunization records.
- **Pre-Matriculation Requirements**
All TTUHSC El Paso students (undergraduate and graduate), with the exception of students identified as having no direct patient care, must have received required immunizations with documentation submitted prior to matriculation.

3. Annual Requirements

- Occupational Health will annually during month of hire review and send out a notice to all TTUHSC El Paso employees/students/volunteer with their TB screening tool a notice to update any immunizations.
- Annual Flu vaccine will be offered to all TTUHSC El Paso Employees/Students/Volunteers

4. Waiver of Vaccination Recommendations

- When vaccine/s shortages occur at the national or organizational level, the OH department will prioritize the immunization program towards employees and students performing activities with the highest risk of transmission of infectious diseases.

5. Cost Responsibilities

- Employees and volunteers: titers costs will be borne by the clinical departments. Immunizations costs will be borne by the OH department.
- Students: The cost of all pre-matriculation immunizations/titers will be borne by the student. Cost for completing the Hepatitis B, MMR and Varicella series and updating Td/Tdap will be borne by the Occupational Health Department

- Cost of Flu vaccine will be covered through the Occupational Health Department

6. Immunization/titers Declination

- Covered individuals have the option of declining any or all of the vaccines and/or titers recommended and outlined in this policy through a signed declination form that can be obtained from and submitted to the Occupational Health Department.
- In order to fulfill duties or participate in certain educational courses covered individuals that are assigned by the University to provide care or attend training in affiliated healthcare facilities must comply with immunizations or titers requirements that such facilities may impose following local, state or national regulations.
- **For Students:**
 1. Texas Education Code 51.933 permits students to claim an exclusion from vaccine requirements for reasons of conscience, including religious belief. However, claiming an exemption may prevent a student granted an exclusion from fulfilling course requirements and thus render them unable to progress or to graduate (see 4 below).
 2. Students who are less than 22 years of age on the first day of their first semester at TTUHSC El Paso can claim exclusion from the meningococcal vaccine for reasons of conscience, including religious belief. Students who are 22 years of age or older by the first day of their first semester at TTUHSC El Paso are not required to receive the meningococcal vaccine.
 3. To obtain exclusion from required immunization for reasons of conscience, the student must request an affidavit from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, have it completed by a physician stating that the student (patient) has been advised of the consequences of not receiving the required immunization(s), and submit it to the OH Department.
 4. Students who are granted exclusions from required vaccinations for reasons of conscience, including religious belief, may not participate in coursework that involves direct patient contact with potential exposure to blood and bodily fluids in educational, medical, or dental care facilities or direct contact with animals or animal remains. This may prevent a student granted an exclusion from fulfilling course requirements and thus render them unable to progress academically or to graduate, because TTUHSC El Paso dental, medical, and nursing course work may require students to be exposed to the above-mentioned exposures. Additionally, it is probable that affiliated entities where students fulfill the clerkships and clinical rounds component of their studies may require a complete vaccination status before students are allowed see patients.
 5. Immunization requirements are not applicable for students who can provide proof of immunity from a laboratory. However, students may not participate in coursework that involves direct patient contact with potential exposure to blood and bodily fluids in educational, medical, or dental care facilities or direct contact with animals or animal remains until the proper laboratory documentation has been submitted and accepted by TTUHSC El Paso.

7. Immunization Program Compliance

- The Office of Occupational Health will monitor compliance with this policy for all covered individuals at TTUHSC El Paso. The applicable supervisors and responsible parties described in this policy will be notified about non-compliant individuals.