



## *Immunization Policy*

Revision Date: May 2020

### **Purpose:**

Because of their contact with patients/clients or infectious material from patients/clients, School of Health Sciences (SoHS) students and faculty are at risk for exposure to and possible transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases. Maintenance of immunity is therefore an essential part of prevention and infection control. The following defines the SoHS divisional policy as it relates to immunizations for SoHS faculty and students.

### **Policy:**

All SoHS faculty and students who encounter medical patients and/or clients must document proof of the following immunizations:

- Two (2) measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccines: \*positive titers will be accepted unless clinical agencies/externships do not accept titers.
- Tetanus within the past ten (10) years after adult T-dap
- Varicella (chicken pox) vaccine: history of disease is not adequate for verification of immunity, therefore documentation of the two (2) vaccines is required or a \*positive titer unless clinical agencies/externships do not accept titers.
- Tuberculosis skin test: a 2-step skin test is required initially, and a single skin test is required annually thereafter. QuantiFERON Gold® or T-Spot® testing may be accepted in place of Tuberculosis skin test.
- Hepatitis B Series: This series of vaccines is **not required but strongly recommended**. All students are required to sign the Hepatitis B Information Sheet.
- Other vaccines as required by clinical agencies/externships according to facility requirements.
- Students and faculty within the Animal Studies programs are only required to have documentation of the Tetanus within the past ten (10) years. The pre-exposure rabies vaccine is not required but is strongly recommended.
- Students enrolled in Massage Therapy are exempt from this policy unless a clinical/externship site requires documentation of immunization.
- Vaccines must remain current throughout the program of study.

\*Students and faculty with documentation of negative or equivocal titers will be required to receive appropriate vaccine(s).

## PROCEDURE:

1. Due dates for documentation will be determined by the program.
2. SoHS faculty, staff, and students may request a **medical exemption from vaccination** based on guidelines from the Centers of Disease Control (CDC). Those CDC guidelines are published at [Who Should Not Get Vaccinated with these Vaccines?](#). Documentation from a physician will be required. **No other reason(s) for exemption will be made.** Health exemption requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
3. Restrictions or limitations consistent with CDC suggestions or guidelines and those mandated by clinical agencies/externships may be required for those with approved health exemptions.
4. Those without an approved exemption, who fail to maintain current immunizations, or who with an approved exemption fail to comply with any applicable restrictions will not be allowed to participate in activities involving patient/client care. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment for faculty or the inability to progress through an academic program for students.
5. Although faculty and students may receive approved medical exemption from the College, participation in academic activities at clinical education centers and/or externships may not be permitted according to signed affiliation agreements between the outside facilities and Greenville Technical College. Such circumstances may result in a change in faculty course assignments or the inability to progress through an academic program for students.