



Policy: Student Immunization Requirement	Applicability: PA Sciences Program Students
Policy Owner: PA Sciences Program	Approved By: Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research
Effective Date: January 1, 2021	Last Reviewed: October 27, 2021
Next Review: October 27, 2022	Contact: (615)321-2933

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is: To describe MMC requirements and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended immunizations for health professionals.

POLICY: Meharry Medical College is committed to providing a safe environment for the education of its students in the health professions and sciences, particularly those students who work in the hospital or with patients. Students, faculty and staff in the health sciences setting are vulnerable to communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria and polio. Those students who may come in contact with blood or blood products also have potential of being infected with hepatitis, HIV or other viruses. These diseases are susceptible to control by appropriate immunizations.

Required Immunizations:

- Influenza
- Hepatitis B vaccinations: documented series of 3 vaccines and Hepatitis B surface antibody quantitative serologic titer
- Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR): documented series of two doses and quantitative serologic titers
- Varicella: documented series of two doses and quantitative serologic titer or documented dates or disease and quantitative serologic titer
- Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis: documentation of TDAP vaccine within the last 10 years
- Meningococcal
- Polio: documentation of last immunization
- Tuberculosis Screening (within last 12 months): PPD results or IGRA result or documentation of previous positive PPD, subsequent treatment and most recent chest x-ray report.
- Tuberculin skin testing and influenza (flu) vaccination is required annually.
- Two doses of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna), a single shot of the Johnson and Johnson, or recovery from Covid-19 followed by a single shot of any of the available



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vaccines is mandatory (with exceptions only for medical reasons) prior to matriculation with documentation provided to student health

Physical Examination:

Prior to registration, all students entering Meharry Medical College are required to have the Health Surveillance/Physical Examination forms completed by a health care provider. The physical exam should be performed within the last 12 months. If the health care provider has questions, please ask the health care provider to call Student Health Services at (615) 327-5757 for assistance.

DEFINITIONS:

Immunization – A process by which a person becomes protected against a disease through vaccination. This term is often used interchangeably with vaccination or inoculation.

PROCEDURE:

1. Prior to registration, all students entering Meharry Medical College must provide proof of prior immunization for influenza, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella (chicken pox), tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, meningococcal, polio, and hepatitis B consistent with the most current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for healthcare professionals. Documentation of the results of tuberculosis screening (PPD) within 6 months of matriculation is also required. Student Health Services will review all documentation submitted to determine adequacy.
2. Students who cannot provide adequate documentation of prior immunization or physician-diagnosed diseases (as indicated by serologic evidence) by the start of the MMC PA program must initiate immunization to these diseases prior to matriculation and complete all immunization prior to the start of clinical rotations.
3. Tuberculin skin testing and influenza (flu) vaccination is required annually for all students enrolled in the MMC PA Program. Any student who has not been appropriately immunized or who fails to receive annual screening will not be allowed to continue



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enrollment in the MMC PA Program. Any student who becomes tuberculin skin test positive during the course of their medical training will be evaluated and followed routinely in the Student Health Service without charge. The student must notify the Office of Student and Academic Affairs and the Student Health Services in order for the student to be cleared to return to clinical rotations. The college will assume responsibility for the cost of the initial chest x-ray(s) and such medication as deemed appropriate by Meharry Student Health Service.

EXHIBITS:

Health Surveillance / Physical Examination Form

<https://home.mmc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/health-immunizationform.pdf>