



## IMMUNIZATION COMPLIANCE POLICY

Reviewed and updated:  
Jun 2020; Oct 2021; Jan 2022  
Jan 2024

### OVERVIEW

Immunizations offer safe and effective protection from vaccine-preventable diseases. The University of New England (UNE) strongly supports the use of vaccines to protect the health of our individual students and our campus communities.

In recognition of the vital role that vaccine coverage plays in community (herd) immunity, UNE follows state guidelines and does not allow for the use of non-medical exemption for required vaccinations. **Medical exemptions are allowed but will require appropriate documentation and be limited to those allowed in the references below (State of Maine, US CDC, ACHA).**

It is the policy of UNE that all students physically located on its Maine campuses be in compliance with the **State of Maine Immunization Requirements for Post-Secondary Schools**. It is the expectation that all students will arrive at UNE with all of their immunization requirements met. UNE's Office of Safety and Security in conjunction with the Student Health Center and/or with the Vice President for Clinical Affairs and others will enforce these requirements.

All students attending classes on any UNE campus or clinical affiliate site must be up to date on immunization with a type of **DPT** (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus) vaccination, such as Tdap and Td, within 10 years of the first day of attendance, and maintain the vaccine as within 10 years for the duration of enrollment. All students must have completed 2 doses **MMR** (measles/rubeola, mumps, and rubella) vaccines, if born after 1956. Additionally, residential students (student living in residence halls) matriculating at UNE are required to be immunized for **Meningococcal ACWY**.

UNE students on the Maine campuses who are not in compliance with Maine State Immunization Requirements will not be allowed to attend classes, participate in clinical training, be issued UNE ID cards, or check into their campus housing until they are in compliance.

**All UNE health professions students or online students with required clinical training** must meet the appropriate immunization requirements for health care workers of the state and/or clinical site where they will train. See Exemptions for Health Professions Students section below for information on exemptions.

Also see section on **Tuberculosis Testing**, since these requirements apply to some non-health professions students as well as all health professions students.

## **References**

State of Maine Immunization Requirements for College Students and Healthcare Workers:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/immunization/family/documents/State-Immunization-Law-for-College-Students.pdf>

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/immunization/providers/documents/Immunization%20Requirements%20for%20Healthcare%20Workers.pdf>

American College Health Association Recommendations:

<http://www.acha.org/ACHA/Resources/Topics/Vaccine.aspx>

US CDC Recommended Vaccines for Healthcare Workers:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/hcw.html>

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS AT UNE**

### **Diphtheria/Pertussis/Tetanus**

The administration of a vaccination protecting against diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus must be documented as having been administered by an appropriate health care provider within ten years of matriculation. Students for whom the 10 years will elapse during their anticipated matriculation are expected to obtain a booster at the appropriate time. Examples of appropriate DPT vaccines include Tdap or Td. Specific programs may have different requirements concerning DPT immunity.

### **Measles, Mumps and Rubella**

For all students born after 1956 without laboratory evidence of disease, the administration of the vaccine or combination of vaccines on 2 separate occasions after the student's 1st birthday, with at least 28 days between doses must be documented by an appropriate health care provider. If there is documentation of 2 doses MMR vaccine, no further testing is required unless specified otherwise by a program. If there is no documentation or history of vaccination, then 2 doses of the MMR vaccine, separated by at least 28 days, must be provided; no further testing will be required.<sup>1</sup> If testing is performed with documented vaccines, the vaccines supersede testing results. Specific programs may have different requirements concerning MMR immunity.

### **Influenza (strongly recommended, not required)**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00053391.htm>

Influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that can result in severe illness. Many clinical sites require annual influenza vaccination of students and employees, typically in the autumn. UNE strongly recommends that all students receive an annual influenza vaccine, which can be accessed at Student Health Center and/or one of several fall flu vaccine clinics on campus.

## **SARSCoV2 (COVID-19)**

As of 2023, all matriculants at UNE are strongly encouraged to obtain vaccination to SARSCoV2. Specific programs may have different requirements concerning SARSCoV2.

### **REQUIRED FOR ALL INCOMING UNE STUDENTS LIVING IN RESIDENTIAL HOUSING**

#### **Meningococcal**

Meningococcal ACWY immunization on or after the 16<sup>th</sup> birthday and/or within 5 years of matriculation is a requirement for all students living in residential housing or other UNE approved congregate living situations on any UNE campus, including Portland, Biddeford, and Morocco. Please contact the Student Health Center on the Biddeford or Portland Campus for information on how to become immunized against meningococcal meningitis/sepsis.

### **REQUIRED FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONS STUDENTS**

**In addition** to meeting the immunization requirements for all students, matriculating students in colleges or programs with a health profession clinical training component (e.g., internships, clerkships, field work placements, service learning, or job shadowing in clinical settings), will be required to complete the immunizations and/or titers related to **Hepatitis B, varicella, tuberculosis and others as dictated by clinical sites of programs or colleges** as detailed below, within 5 days after entering any portion of their academic curriculum.

**Health professions students or online students** with required clinical training components must meet any additional immunization requirements for health care workers of the state (other than Maine) and/or clinical site where they will train. For example, some clinical settings now require an annual influenza vaccine of all health care workers. The UNE Student Health Center will provide guidance and assistance with completion of these requirements, if necessary. **Expenses related to completing these requirements through UNE Student Health will be the responsibility of the student or will be billed to the student's insurance. Further support for these expenses may be defined by the UNE college.**

#### **Hepatitis B**

UNE students must present documentation of administration of a Hepatitis B vaccine series as delineated below. UNE health professions students must also provide laboratory evidence of a positive protective titer for Hepatitis B. Testing must use a **quantitative method** that allows detection of the protective concentration of anti-HBs ( $\geq 10$  mIU/ml) (e.g., enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, ELISA)

- 3-dose series of Recombivax HB or Engerix-B (dose #1 now, #2 in 1 month, #3 approximately 5 months after #2)
- 2-dose series of Hепlisav-B, with the doses separated by at least 4 weeks.
- Get a quantitative anti-HBs serologic test 1-2 months after the final dose
- Testing should use a quantitative method that allows detection of the protective concentration of anti-HBs ( $\geq 10$  mIU/ml) (e.g., enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, ELISA).
- If the value is less than 10 mIU/ml, a single dose booster may be given followed by titer 4-8 weeks after. If this titer is  $\geq 10$  mIU/ml, they are considered immune. If the titer is less than 10 mIU/mL, then completion of the full Hepatitis B vaccine series is required. An additional titer is then obtained 1-2 months after this series is completed. If this second series of vaccines does not result in a titer greater than or equal to 10 mIU/ml they are considered non-responder.

**Hepatitis B Non-responders:** Vaccinated health profession students who's anti-HBs remains less than 10mIU/ml after revaccination (total of 6 doses of the 3-dose series or 4 doses of the 2-dose series) will be tested for HBsAg and anti-HBc to determine infection status. Those determined not to be HBV infected (vaccine non-responders) should be considered susceptible to HBV infection. No specific work or clinical rotation restrictions are recommended for vaccine non-responders, though they should inform themselves of ways to prevent infection from the CDC and other sources such as:

[http://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts\\_hepb.asp#hcw](http://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts_hepb.asp#hcw). If a health professions student is found to be HBsAg positive they should be counseled and medically evaluated and refer to UNE's Bloodborne Pathogen Protocol.

Recommended Vaccines for Healthcare workers: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/hcw.html>

Ask the Experts, Q&A on Hepatitis B Vaccine: <https://www.immunize.org/ask-experts/topic/hepb/#hcw>

## Varicella

The administration of live varicella vaccine on 2 separate occasions after the student's 1st birthday with a minimum of 4 weeks separating the doses is required. If there is no evidence of vaccinations or a student has a history of infection with chickenpox, that student must provide evidence of immunity with laboratory titer, and the positive titer must be documented by an appropriate health care provider. If the titer proves negative or equivocal, then 2 doses of live varicella vaccine separated by at least 4 weeks are required. If testing is performed with documented vaccines, the vaccines supersede testing results.<sup>2</sup> Specific programs may have different requirements concerning varicella immunity.

## Additional Requirements

Additional immunization requirements may be requested by individual clinical training sites. Students attending training sites with additional requirements will be referred to the Student Health Center.

## Exemptions for Health Professions Students

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/varicella/hcp/recommendations.html>

If a health profession student meets the criteria for an exemption for medical, reasons, UNE will assist the student in obtaining a clinical placement with an existing UNE clinical affiliate willing to permit the student to participate in its program despite the lack of otherwise required vaccinations. UNE does not, however, guarantee a clinical placement for students who do not meet the requirements for student vaccinations established by UNE clinical affiliates.

## TUBERCULOSIS TESTING

### **Tuberculin Skin Testing (TST) and Interferon-Gamma Release Assay (IGRA)**

Tuberculosis testing is an important step in disease prevention and health promotion. **All UNE health professions students** are required to obtain a 2-step TST or an IGRA (Interferon-Gamma Release Assay). As of 2019, there are 2 brands of testing including QuantiFERON®-TB Gold and the T-SPOT® TB test). The 2-step TST is defined as a TST on two separate occasions separated by 1 to 3 weeks. Proof of administration and results must be documented by an appropriate health care provider within the year in which the student begins matriculation at UNE.

If there are contraindications to performing a TST (e.g., having received a BCG vaccine within the previous 5 years or having had a positive TST in the past with no symptoms), the student will need an IGRA. If the IGRA is positive, then the student will be required to have a symptom review and exam by an appropriate health care provider, with appropriate X-rays and treatment if indicated. If a student has received treatment for tuberculosis in the past or is in the process of treatment for TB, the Student Health Center must have documentation of such treatment. An Annual Tuberculosis Symptoms Assessment completed by a provider is required annually for students with a history of a positive TST and/or IGRA.

Tuberculosis testing will also be required of **any UNE students**, including those who are not in health profession programs, but who meet criteria based on travel and/or found in the resources below. For instance, testing is done with some incoming international students as well as some pre- and post- travel students as per national guidance.

### **Tuberculosis Testing Resources:**

TB Testing related to college/university students: <http://www.acha.org/ACHA/Resources/Topics/TB.aspx>

TB Testing for Travelers: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2024/infections-diseases/tuberculosis>

TB Testing for Health Care Personnel: <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/infectioncontrol/healthCarePersonnel-resources.htm>

## **Appendix: College Specific Requirements**

**College of Dental Medicine:** Additional requirements may vary by site

- TB annually
- Influenza annually
- Tdap only no Td vaccine
- Up to date Covid19 vaccine

**College of Osteopathic Medicine:**

- Tdap only no Td vaccine
- Quantitative titers for MMR & varicella required regardless of a history of documented vaccination
- Annual influenza vaccine required
- SARSCov2 vaccines required to be in compliance with most recent CDC recommendations

**Westbrook College of Health Professions:**

- Quantitative titers for MMR & Varicella required by a small minority of clinical training sites. Only students training at those sites are required to obtain titer
- Annual influenza vaccine required by most sites
- SARSCov2 vaccine varies by program
- School of Pharmacy:
  - Annual tuberculosis screening
  - Annual influenza vaccine required by most sites
  - Tdap only, no Td vaccine

**College of Professional Studies (UOnline):**

Master of Science in Applied Nutrition: Dietetics Focus

- Influenza annually site dependent