

 **Prairie State College**  
**Chicago Heights, IL**  
**Department of Nursing**  
**Student Health Requirements**

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**Purpose:**

To prevent the transmission of infection to: patients, students, faculty, agency employees and agency visitors.

**Policy Statement:**

1. All nursing students having any clinical affiliation will meet the following health requirements prior to their clinical experience.
  - a. Evidence of completion of Hepatitis B immunization (series of three vaccines) or a signed waiver. If unable to verify the dates of the 3 vaccines, Hepatitis antibody titer to assess for immune status can be ordered by the provider. This titer should be at least 1-2 months after the Hepatitis vaccine dose #3. A copy of this titer result from the lab must be scanned into the designated health requirements/compliance tracking service.
  - b. All students should have received a two-step Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) **or** one QuantiFERON-TB Gold blood test (QFT-G) upon starting their clinical program. A two-step TST consists of: a) an initial TST placed and then **must** be read 48-72 hours later and if negative then a second TST placed one to three weeks after the first TST was read. The second TST must be read 48-72 hours after it was placed; **or**, b) one QFT-G blood test; **or**, c) within a 12 month period there are two documented negative results (can be one TST and one QFT-G or 2 TSTs).
    1. **Students who have a history of receiving the bacilli Calmette-Guèrin (BCG) tuberculosis vaccine:** the TST and QFT-G blood tests to detect TB infection are not contraindicated for persons who have been vaccinated with BCG. If a student has had a BCG vaccine and has a history of prior positive TST, the blood test (QFT-G) should be completed as the results are not affected by prior BCG vaccination and are less likely to give a false-positive result.
    2. Then (1) annual QFT-G blood test should be completed within 12 months of the date of their last QFT-G blood test was drawn. A copy of the laboratory result **must** be scanned into the designated health requirements/compliance tracking service.
    3. Any student at any level with a positive TST or QFT-G must be seen and evaluated by their provider to rule out tuberculosis (TB). They must have a chest x-ray (2 views) that is negative for TB. The student must provide a copy of the chest x-ray report and a letter from their provider that they have been evaluated and are non-contagious and that TB has been ruled out. A completed TB questionnaire must also be submitted.

4. Any student with a history of a positive TST or QFT-G must complete a Tuberculosis Questionnaire annually (a repeat chest-xray is not needed if the Tuberculosis Questionnaire is negative).
- c. Rubeola titer indicating immunity.
- d. Mumps titer indicating immunity.
- e. Rubella titer indicating immunity.
- f. Varicella titer indicating immunity.

**Only titer results from a clinical laboratory will be accepted as proof of immunity.**

\*\*\*If any of the above titers result in a non-immune or equivocal level, the student will need to show documentation of receiving the appropriate vaccine(s). (MMR and varicella are contraindicated during pregnancy)

\*\* See Prairie State College Nursing Program Health, CPR, Background Check, and Drug Testing Information and Checklist for important information, re: number of vaccines needed if a titer(s) determines a student is non-immune to a vaccine preventable disease(s), timing of TST placement and receiving vaccines.

- g. Must have received at least one acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine (since 2005). Must receive a tetanus-diphtheria (Td) booster every 10 years thereafter.
2. All eligible students are to receive the annual influenza vaccine and provide documentation to the nursing department by November 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Any student who declines an annual influenza vaccine due to medical reasons will need to bring signed documentation from their provider explaining the medical contraindication. If a student has a religious reason why they cannot receive an annual influenza vaccine they will need to bring in a notarized letter (on the religious organization's letterhead) from their minister that documents their religious belief against receiving the annual influenza vaccine.
  3. Evidence of compliance with health requirements will be sent to each affiliate clinical agency prior to students beginning their clinical rotation.
  4. All physical/laboratory confirmation and required documentation is due by August 1<sup>st</sup> at 4 p.m. each year.
  5. Failure to comply with these student health requirements will postpone the start of the student's clinical experience.

References:

Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis in Health-Care Settings (2005). <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5417.pdf>. Retrieved 4/4/16.

Guidelines for vaccinating pregnant women (2015). <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/preg-guide.htm>. Retrieved 4/4/16.

Hepatitis B facts: Testing and vaccination (2013). [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2110.pdf>. Retrieved 4/4/16.

Healthcare personnel vaccination recommendations (2009). <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/A/healthcare-rec.pdf>. Retrieved 4/4/16.

Immunization of Health-Care Personnel: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). (Nov. 25, 2011) / 60(RR07); 1-45. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr6007.pdf>. Retrieved 4/4/16.