

CNA Immunization Requirements

Before nurse assisting students are allowed to provide clinical care in a nursing home or hospital, proof of the following vaccinations and TB tests must be submitted. This list is standard in the healthcare industry and is for the protection of both the student and the patients they will be taking care of. These immunizations are required by the Department of Health in order for the students to participate in clinical rotations at long-term care facilities.

****Immunization Records are due the first week of the semester.****

The following list is for your personal tracking information and will ensure you have everything completed before you submit your documents.

An explanation of each immunization can be found on the following page.

MMR Proof of 2 vaccinations

Tdap Proof of 1 within the last 10 years, must include pertussis.

Hep B Proof of 3 vaccinations or proof of immunity through a blood test.

Varicella Proof of 2 vaccinations or proof of immunity through blood test.

COVID Proof of 2 vaccinations or 1 bivalent booster

FLU Proof of vaccination from the fall of 2023

TB Test 2-Step – *Must include 2 separate tests at least 1 week apart. This requires 4 visits, each of which must be documented. Or a blood test is also acceptable proof instead of the 2 Step TB Test.* Either the QuantiFERON or the T-Spot will work and only one test is required.

As a service to our program, Community Nursing Services (CNS) will provide the 2-Step TB skin tests at CTEC for \$20 (\$10 per test).

Vaccination General Information

MMR

The measles, mumps, rubella vaccination is typically given to children before they begin elementary school. Some students may also have received a booster.

Tdap

This immunization is a booster for tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis. It is usually given every 10 years and would have been required during junior high. If only the tetanus/diphtheria (TD) portion of the booster was given, it will need to be repeated so the student is also protected from pertussis, which is commonly known as whooping cough.

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B is a serious disease that is spread through contact with the blood and body fluids of an infected person. The Hepatitis B Vaccination requires a series of three injections. Before clinicals the series must have at least been started. Each additional immunization must also be received on schedule. A titer (blood test) may be done instead of proof of vaccinations at the discretion of the healthcare facility.

Varicella

Varicella is commonly known as chickenpox. Prior to 2006 only 1 immunization was administered but guidelines now call for 2 immunizations. A student who had the chickenpox virus needs a blood titer result that confirms immunity. A student starting the series for the first time would also need to receive the second immunization on schedule.

COVID

Due to new federal regulations, the Covid vaccine is now a requirement for healthcare workers in nursing homes and hospitals. While some facilities may allow their employees a religious or medical exemption, it is not something they are required to offer students, who are guests in their buildings.

Tuberculosis (TB) Skin Test, also known as a PPD

Tuberculosis is a disease caused by an infection with the tubercle bacillus bacteria. A TB skin test is the injection of a small amount of chemical just under the skin of the forearm. This test will determine if the student has been exposed to someone with active tuberculosis. 48 to 72 hours after the test has been administered, the student must have the area checked by the organization administering the test. If there is no reaction the test is considered negative. This test must be completed twice, with 1 – 3 weeks between each test. Each test requires 2 visits, one for the test to be placed, and another in 2 or 3 days to have it read. If there is a reaction (a lump, redness, itching, etc.) on the forearm, the test is considered positive. This does not necessarily mean that the person has tuberculosis or is infected. It does mean, however, that the student should be seen by a physician to determine the reason for the test result. A chest x-ray will usually be ordered to determine if there is any sign of tuberculosis in the lungs.

Influenza

Commonly known as the flu shot, this immunization will provide protection from most strains of the influenza virus for the duration of the following flu season. It needs to be repeated annually in the fall, as flu strains vary each winter. The influenza vaccine becomes available at the end of August or early September.

Vaccinations should be available through your personal physician or the County Health Department. For information on clinic locations and hours go to www.slcohealth.org. Costs will vary but if the student has no insurance discounted rates may be available.

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