UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

MAY, 2015 IMMUNIZATION COMPLIANCE PROTOCOL – 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 does not allow the use of non-medical exemptions to required vaccines except for sincere religious beliefs with adequate written documentation of the basis for this exemption. 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). In the case of an actual or threatened outbreak, unvaccinated students may be required to stay off campus.**

It is the protocol of UNE that all students physically located on our Maine campuses are 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.

All students attending classes on any UNE campus must be up to date on immunization with a type of **DPT** (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus) vaccination, such as DTaP and Tdap, within 10 years of the first day of attendance, and must have completed two **MMR** (measles/rubeola, mumps, and rubella) vaccines if born after 1956. Additionally, residential students (living in dormitories) matriculating at UNE are required to have a **meningococcal immunization**.

Students who are not in compliance with Maine State Immunization Requirements (for students on UNE's Maine campuses) and UNE policy will not be allowed to attend classes, attend clinical experiences, be issued UNE ID cards, or check in to their campus housing until they are in compliance.

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. For instance, some places now require annual influenza vaccine of all health care workers.

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:
http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/immunization/family/rules.html

American College Health Association Recommendations:
http://www.acha.org/publications/guidelines_whitepapers.cfm
http://www.acha.org/publications/docs/ACHA_RIPI_April_2014.pdf

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 ten years will elapse during their anticipated matriculation are expected to obtain a booster update at the appropriate time. Examples of appropriate DPT vaccines include DTaP and Tdap.

Measles, Mumps and Rubella

For all students born after 1956 without lab evidence of disease, the administration of the vaccine or combination of vaccines on two separate occasions after the student's first birthday, with at least 28 days between doses must be documented by an appropriate health care provider. Evidence of immunity in the form of a laboratory titer must be provided if there is no documentation or history of vaccination. If the titer proves negative, then two administrations of the vaccine are required and no further testing is then required.

REQUIRED FOR ALL INCOMING UNE STUDENTS LIVING IN RESIDENTIAL HOUSING

Meningococcal

Meningococcal immunization is a requirement of matriculation 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 Student Health Services on the Biddeford or Portland Campus for information on how to become immunized against meningococcal meningitis/sepsis.

HEALTH PROFESSIONS STUDENTS

In addition to meeting the immunization requirements for all students, matriculating students in the various colleges of health professions - **College of Dental Medicine, College of Osteopathic Medicine, College of Pharmacy, and Westbrook College of Health Professions** - that include a clinical training component, will be required to complete the immunizations and/or titers related to **Hepatitis B, Varicella, and Tuberculosis,** as detailed below, within five 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 instance, some clinical settings now require 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.

Hepatitis B

The administration of a Hepatitis B vaccine on three separate occasions must be documented by an appropriate health care provider. Minimum dosing intervals are: four weeks between the first and second dose; eight weeks between the second and third dose; and sixteen weeks between the first and third dose. UNE health professions students must also provide laboratory evidence of a positive protective titer for Hepatitis B (taken at least 6 weeks after the last dose). Testing should use a quantitative method that allows detection of the protective concentration of anti-HBs ($\geq$10mIU/ml)(e.g., enzyme-

linked immunosorbent assay, ELISA). If the titer proves negative or equivocal, then a repeat Hepatitis B vaccine series of three vaccines is required. Additional titer is then obtained at least six weeks after this series is completed.

Hepatitis B Non-responders: Vaccinated health professions students whose anti-HBs remains <10mIU/ml after revaccination (total of 6 doses) 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 CDC and other sources such as: http://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts_hepb.asp#hcw. If a health care professions students is found to be HBsAg positive he/she 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 http://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts_hepb.asp#hcw

Varicella

The administration of live varicella vaccine on two separate occasions after the student's first birthday with a minimum of four weeks separating the doses is required. If there is no evidence of such 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, then two administrations of live varicella vaccine separated by at least four weeks are required. No further testing is then required.

TUBERCULOSIS TESTING

Tuberculin Skin Testing (TST)

TB testing is an important step in disease prevention and health promotion. **All UNE health professions students** are required to obtain a two-step TST, or if indicated, an IGRA (blood test for TB). Two-step TST is defined as a TST on two separate occasions separated by at least two weeks, and within one year. Annual TST is required thereafter. 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 as well as between January 1st and May 1st in the year that clinical rotations begin.

If there are contraindications to performing a TST (e.g., having received a BCG vaccine within the previous five years or having had a positive TST in the past with no symptoms), he/she will need an IGRA (TB blood test). The student will then be required to have an annual symptom review and exam by an appropriate health care provider or IGRA, with appropriate treatment if indicated. If a student has received or is in the process of treatment for TB, Student Health Services must have documentation of such treatment.

Tuberculosis testing will also be required of **any UNE students**, including those who are not in health professions programs, but who meet criteria such as based on travel and found in the resources below. For instance, testing is conducted of some incoming foreign 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/publications/docs/ACHA_Tuberculosis_Screening_April2014.pdf
TB Testing FAQ: http://www.acha.org/Topics/tb_faqs.cfm
TB Testing for Travelers: TB Testing related to travel: http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2014/chapter-3-infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/perspectives-tuberculin-skin-testing-of-travelers

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