



UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

IMMUNIZATION COMPLIANCE POLICY

Reviewed and updated:
6/2020
10/2021
1/2022

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 DTaP, Tdap and Td, within 10 years of the first day of attendance, and must have completed 2 **MMR** (measles/rubeola, mumps, and rubella) vaccines if born after 1956. Additionally, residential students (living in residence halls) matriculating at UNE are required to be immunized for **Meningitis**.

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:

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

American College Health Association Recommendations:

http://www.acha.org/documents/resources/guidelines/ACHA_RIPI_April_2014.pdf

<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 DTaP and Tdap or Td.

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. 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 2 administrations of the vaccine must be provided, and no further testing will be required.¹

Influenza (strongly recommended, not required)

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 clinics on campus.

SARSCoV2 (COVID-19)

As of 2021, all matriculants at UNE are required to provide proof of vaccination to SARSCoV2 including a booster.

REQUIRED FOR ALL INCOMING UNE STUDENTS LIVING IN RESIDENTIAL HOUSING

Meningococcal

Meningococcal immunization after the 16th birthday 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 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 other 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 ($\geq 10\text{mIU/ml}$) (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 Heplisav-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 ($\geq 10\text{mIU/ml}$) (e.g., enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, ELISA).
- If the value is other than this result, a single dose booster may be given followed by titer 4-8 weeks after. If this titer is $\geq 10\text{ mIU/ml}$ they are considered immune. If the titer is $\leq 10\text{ mIU}$,

then completion of the Hepatitis B vaccine series for a total of 3 vaccines is required. An additional titer is then obtained 1-2 months after this series is completed. If this second series of vaccine does not result in a titer ≤ 10 mIU they are considered non-responder

Hepatitis B Non-responders: Vaccinated health profession students whose anti-HBs remains <10 mIU/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 the CDC and other sources such as: http://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts_hepb.asp#hcw. If a health professions student 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 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 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 2 administrations of live varicella vaccine separated by at least 4 weeks are required. No further testing is then required.

Additional Requirements

Additional immunization requirements may be requested by individual clinical training sites, such as annual influenza vaccination or polio. Students attending training sites with additional requirements will be referred to the Student Health Center

Exemptions for Health Professions Students

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)

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 2 brands of testing including QuantiFERON®-TB Gold and the T-SPOT® TB test). 2-step

TST is defined as a TST on two separate occasions separated by at 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. The student will then be required to have an annual symptom review and exam by an appropriate health care provider or an IGRA, with appropriate 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.

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 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: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2016/infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/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: no additional requirements

College of Osteopathic Medicine:

- Meningococcal
- Polio
- Quantitative titers for MMR & Varicella required by a small minority of clinical training sites. Students who are required to train at these sites for core clerkships will have these titers funded by UNE COM. If these titers are required by a site for an elective experience, the student is responsible for obtaining titers.
- Annual influenza vaccine required by most sites

College of Pharmacy:

- Annual tuberculosis screening
- Annual influenza vaccine required by most sites

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

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