

Policy Number: 100.1031.114
Policy Category: General Administrative
Policy Owner: Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Policy Revision Date: 2021-03-17

Policy Audience: Student Council, Faculty

1. Definitions:

2. Medical Education Committee:

May 26, 2020

3. Introduction / Purpose:

Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine is committed to protecting the health and well-being of all students, faculty, staff, patients and the general public. Students will be required to show proof of appropriate immunity, and/or documented immunization, prior to matriculation and/or the onset of actual patient contact. In addition, the Student Health Services in conjunction with the Office of Student Affairs will offer educational programming to assist all students in the attainment and maintenance of optimal physical and mental health.

4. Governance and Enforcement:

Associate Dean for Student Affairs

5. Policy:

All students are required to have a pre-entrance physical exam performed by the student's physician within one year prior to enrollment. Additionally, students must complete the Medical History Form prior to attending the College. Students who fail to submit this form and immunization documents prior to the first day of class will not be able to attend classes or clinical rotations until the information is complete. It is the sole responsibility of the student to submit all vaccine documentation and associated lab reports to Student Health Services prior to matriculation.

The College's immunization policies and procedures are in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The following immunizations will be required:

Hepatitis B Series:

The usual six-month regimen of three doses of vaccine and proof of a quantitative hepatitis B surface antibody titer is required for all students. If the titer is negative (less than 10mIU/ml) the student will be revaccinated with a repeat 2-3 dose series on a case-by-case basis. This repeat series must be completed prior to the second semester of the first year. A repeat quantitative hepatitis B surface antibody titer is required 1-2 months after dose #6. If the anti-HBs is negative after 6 doses the student is considered a non-responder and further counseling will be offered by Student Health Services on a case-by-case basis. Immunizations will be offered at Careworks, as well as regional campus urgent and primary care networks coordinated through Student Health Services at a cost to the student.

Measles, Mumps and Rubella:

All students must provide documentation of 2 doses of vaccine given after 12 months of age, and an IgG titer verifying immunity. Consistent with Department of CDC Health guidelines, students born after 1957 must also have proof of vaccination of the two doses of live, attenuated measles and rubella vaccines. The first dose must have been given on or after the first birthday, and in 1957 or later. The second dose usually must have been given at age 4-6 years or later, but at least 28 days after the first dose.

Tetanus Diphtheria:

All students must have had initial series of 3 Td immunizations. All students regardless of age should receive a single dose of Tdap every ten (10) years.

TB Screening:

A 2-step PPD (tine or mantoux) Tb skin test must have been performed within one year prior to entering school. If the PPD is positive, students must have chest x-ray and document proof of receiving appropriate treatment. Students who are positive reactors must be assessed annually.

At the beginning of every academic year all medical students will receive a Tb skin test if applicable. Students who have had a previous positive Tb test or who convert to a positive status will receive counseling and treatment, if required. Alternatively, an IGRA blood test (Quantiferon Gold) will be an acceptable alternative to the Tb skin test.

Chicken Pox (Varicella):

Students who have a negative or uncertain history of chicken pox are required to obtain the Varicella IgG titer and if negative receive the Varivax vaccine. A Varicella IgG titer is required even if the student has a history of chicken pox.

Any student that has received the vaccine as a child and is exposed to a patient with Varicella Zoster Virus should be monitored on days 8-21 following exposure for any symptoms suggestive of varicella.

Meningitis Vaccination:

Students are required to have a Meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (MPSV4 or Menomune®) or the Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4 or MenactraT) dated after their 16th birthday.

Seasonal Influenza Vaccination:

All students are required to receive the seasonal influenza vaccine. Students can receive the influenza vaccination at Student Health Services or through employee health at no charge. In the event a flu vaccine is administered at an outside vendor (CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Primary Care office, etc) the student is responsible for any cost associated with this vaccine.

Students may be required to have additional vaccines and/or other medical tests prior to starting classes and/or clinical clerkships.

Exceptions to this policy, such as medical contraindications can be discussed on a case to case basis.

Exempted students may be required to wear protective clothing or refrain from certain clinical activities that may put patients at risk. In the event of a local measles or varicella epidemic, these exempted students will be excluded from group activities, including classes and patient care, until the County Public Health Unit Director/Administration indicates it is safe for the students to return. Students will be excluded from group activities, including classes and patient care, until the County Public Health Unit Director/Administration indicates it is safe for the students to return.

Immunizations are offered at Careworks and regional campus urgent and primary care networks coordinated through Student Health Services and billed to the student's insurance.

6. Key Stakeholders:

Student Council, Faculty