

IMMUNIZATION COMPLIANCE POLICY

Reviewed and updated:
Jun 2020; Oct 2021; Jan 2022
Jan 2024; Feb 2024; Feb 2025

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 law 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.

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 clinical sites where they will train. See Exemptions for Health Professions Students section below for information on exemptions.

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 vaccines include Tdap or DTaP with the preferred being Tdap. Specific programs may have additional requirements concerning immunity to diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus.

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. If there is documentation of 2

doses MMR vaccine, no further testing is required unless otherwise specified by a program. If there is no documentation or history of vaccination, 2 doses of the MMR vaccine separated by at least 28 days or evidence of immunity in the form of a laboratory titer must be provided.¹ If testing is performed with documented vaccines, the vaccines supersede testing results. Specific programs may have different requirements concerning MMR immunity.

Influenza (strongly recommended)

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 vaccine clinics on campus.

SARSCoV2 (COVID-19) (strongly recommended)

As of 2023, all matriculants at UNE are strongly encouraged to obtain vaccination to SARSCoV2.

REQUIRED FOR ALL INCOMING UNE STUDENTS LIVING IN RESIDENTIAL HOUSING

Meningococcal

Meningococcal ACWY immunization on or after the 16th birthday and/or within 5 years of matriculation is a requirement 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.

HEALTH PROFESSIONS STUDENTS

Health professions students or online students with required clinical training components must meet all additional immunization requirements for health care workers of the states (in addition to Maine) and clinical sites where they will train. UNE health professions colleges and programs each have requirements that may include any or all of the vaccines and testing summarized below. Please check with your college or program for their specific requirements.

The UNE Student Health Center may provide guidance and assistance with completion of these requirements, if necessary. **Expenses related to completing these requirements will be the responsibility of the student.**

Exemptions for Health Professions Students:

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). However, clinical training affiliates and sites establish their own immunization requirements independent of UNE. UNE health professions students must meet the requirements of their clinical training sites in addition to UNE requirements. If a health profession student does not have the immunizations required by clinical training sites, UNE cannot guarantee clinical placement. UNE will assist the student in identifying clinical placements with an

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/mmr/hcp/recommendations.html>

existing UNE clinical affiliate willing to permit the student to participate in its program despite the lack of otherwise required vaccinations. However, UNE does not own the clinical sites nor does UNE establish immunization requirements for clinical affiliates and training sites. **Therefore, placement at a clinical training site for a student lacking, for any reason, a site required vaccination cannot be guaranteed and thus the ability for said student to meet graduation requirements may be affected.**

Description of CDC Recommendations and Potential Requirements Health Care Professions

Please see specific requirements for your program

Influenza:

May be required by clinical sites

While Influenza vaccination is not required by UNE, we do recommend that students are properly vaccinated against influenza, particularly for the protection of patients whom the students will serve during clinical rotations. Although UNE does not require influenza vaccination, UNE does not and cannot control the vaccination policies of the clinical sites where students will complete their required clinical clerkships, rotations, or off-site service-learning experiences. Therefore, as with any other vaccination required by a clinical site, not being vaccinated for influenza could impede placement of a student in a clinical rotation, which could in turn impede a student's progression and graduation.

SARSCoV2:

May be required by clinical sites

While COVID vaccination and booster are not required by UNE, we do recommend that students are properly vaccinated against COVID, particularly for the protection of patients whom the students will serve during clinical rotations. Although UNE does not require COVID vaccination, UNE does not and cannot control the vaccination policies of the clinical sites where students will complete their required clinical clerkships, rotations, or off-site service-learning experiences. Therefore, as with any other vaccination required by a clinical site, not being vaccinated for COVID could impede placement of a student in a clinical rotation, which could in turn impede a student's progression and graduation.

Hepatitis B:

Hepatitis B is a viral infection that is transmitted through blood and other bodily fluids. Health care professionals are considered at risk of transmitting or becoming infected due to potential exposure to bodily fluids inherent to the profession. Procedures for vaccination and proof of immunity are summarized below:

- 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 less than 10 mIU/ml, a single dose booster may be given followed by titer 4-8 weeks after. If this titer is ≥ 10 mIU/ml, they are considered immune. If the titer is less than 10 mIU/mL, then completion of the full Hepatitis B vaccine series is required. An additional titer is then obtained 1-2 months after this series is completed. If this second series of vaccines does not result in a titer greater than or equal to 10 mIU/ml they are considered non-responder.

Hepatitis B Non-responders: Vaccinated health profession students who's anti-HBs remains less than 10mIU/ml after revaccination (total of 6 doses of the 3-dose series or 4 doses of the 2-dose series) 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 they should be counseled and medically evaluated and refer to UNE's Bloodborne Pathogen Protocol.

Resources on Hepatitis B:

Recommended Vaccines for Healthcare workers: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-adults/recommended-vaccines/index.html>

Ask the Experts, Q&A on Hepatitis B Vaccine: <https://www.immunize.org/ask-experts/topic/hepb/#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 constitutes immunity. If there is no evidence of vaccinations or a student has a history of infection with chickenpox, evidence of immunity may be proven with a laboratory titer, and the positive titer must be documented by an appropriate health care provider. If the titer proves negative or equivocal, then 2 doses of live varicella vaccine separated by at least 4 weeks are required. If testing is performed with documented vaccines, the vaccines supersede testing results.² Specific programs may have different requirements concerning varicella immunity.

Tuberculosis:

Tuberculin Skin Testing (TST) and Interferon-Gamma Release Assay (IGRA)

Tuberculosis screening may be performed through a 2-step TST or an IGRA (Interferon-Gamma Release Assay). As of 2019, there are 2 brands of testing including QuantiFERON®-TB Gold and the T-SPOT® TB test). The 2-step TST is defined as a TST on two separate occasions separated by 1 to 3 weeks. Proof of administration and results must be documented by an appropriate health care provider when required by the college or program.

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. If the IGRA is positive, then the student will be required to have a symptom review and exam by an appropriate health care provider, with appropriate X-rays and 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

² <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/varicella/hcp/recommendations.html>

Center must have documentation of such treatment. An Annual Tuberculosis Symptoms Assessment completed by a provider is required annually for students with a history of a positive TST and/or IGRA. 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/or 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: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2024/infections-diseases/tuberculosis>

TB Testing for Health Care Personnel:

<https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/infectioncontrol/healthCarePersonnel-resources.htm>

References

State of Maine Immunization Requirements for College Students and Healthcare Workers:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/immunization/family/documents/State-Immunization-Law-for-College-Students.pdf>

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/immunization/providers/documents/Immunization%20Requirements%20for%20Healthcare%20Workers.pdf>

American College Health Association Recommendations:

<http://www.acha.org/ACHA/Resources/Topics/Vaccine.aspx>

US CDC Recommended Vaccines for Healthcare Workers:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-adults/recommended-vaccines/index.html>