



Health Sciences Physician Assistant Studies Immunization Requirements

All students must provide evidence of immunization to register as a full-time student. A full-time student is a student who, at the graduate level, is registered in 6 or more credits.

Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L.c. 76, §§ 15 and 15C and 15D; c. 111, §§ 5, 6 and 7) requires that all full-time college students (6 credits of graduate level per semester) provide evidence that they are immunized against **Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Hepatitis B, and Varicella** (Chicken Pox) in order to register for classes. Alternatively, positive lab titers could be submitted for all of these vaccines except for Tdap. This law requires (foreign and domestic) full-time students to document immunizations, as specified in 105 CMR 220.400, CMR 220.600 within 30 days of the beginning of a semester.

POLICY

In order to be registered at Westfield State University as a full-time student, Physician Assistant Studies students must present a certificate of immunization to the program or the Division of Graduate and Continuing Education (DGCE). Students may be registered on condition that the required documentation is provided within 30 days of registration.

All full and part time students attending or visiting classes or educational programs as part of a formal academic visitation or exchange program at postsecondary institutions must comply with immunization regulations.

Physician Assistant Studies students have additional requirements for immunizations due to clinical placements.

As of this date, the immunizations required by the Westfield State University Physician Assistant Studies Program are:

- 1. Tetanus/Diphtheria/acellular Pertussis (Tdap)** immunization may be as many as five and must be within the last 10 years.
- 2. MMR (Measles/Mumps/Rubella)** immunization dates must be submitted for two doses, all given at or after 12 months of age. Laboratory proof of immunity is acceptable if immunization dates are unavailable.
- 3. Hepatitis B Vaccine (20mcg doses) Series** must be completed. Documentation of both the series and a protective titer must be provided. The series should be taken as two doses IM four weeks apart, a third dose five months after the second, and a titer test taken one to

two months after the third dose. A protective titer may take more than three doses in the series.

Note: There is also a **two dose Hepatitis B (10mcg) series** but this must be indicated on health forms submitted, while also providing test results showing protective titer.

Existing waivers dated prior to the effective date of this policy that except students from Hepatitis B Virus vaccination will remain in force.

- 4. Meningococcal Vaccination** within the last five years is required for all full time undergraduate and graduate students in a degree program, who will live in a residence hall/dormitory or comparable congregated living arrangement approved by the Institution. Students may decline Meningitis vaccination if they read and sign the "*Meningococcal Information and Waiver*" form. This form and other required Health Forms can be read and printed from the Department of Health Services website at <http://www.westfield.ma.edu/student-life/health-services/required-health-forms-eligibility>. This information would help identify non immunized students in the event of meningococcal disease occurring on campus.
- 5. Varicella (Chicken Pox)** antibody titer test is necessary to confirm immunity. If negative, two doses of virus vaccine given four to eight weeks apart are recommended.
- 6. TWO negative Tuberculosis (TB) skin tests** taken two weeks apart is required prior to the start of the student's didactic year. The student must provide evidence and documentation to the Director of Clinical Education. It is the student's responsibility to have the skin test repeated annually as long as patient contact continues. If the student has a **Positive Mantoux Test**, the student must submit a report of a negative chest X-ray before the university certifies that immunizations are complete.

Communicable Tuberculosis

Students with a positive X-ray for communicable tuberculosis may not attend classes until such time as a physician or the Department of Public Health documents that they are free of the disease in a communicable form. Documentation may be through submission of the report of a large X-ray film of the chest, taken not more than ninety days prior thereto, and such other laboratory and clinical examination as may be required for the exclusion in a communicable form. That documentation must be provided to the Program's Director of Clinical Education in order to show that the student is able to return to clinical practice.

In addition, be advised that some clerkship training sites may have immunization requirements beyond the general requirements noted above. It will be the student's responsibility to meet any additional immunization requirements of specific sites to which he/she is assigned.

HEALTH FORMS

The Division of Graduate and Continuing Education (DGCE) students are informed of immunization requirements on the DGCE registration form, in the semester catalog and through the DGCE Admission process. Students intending to register for full-time academic schedules are required to submit their immunization form in advance of registration.

DGCE will restrict enrollment to less than full-time academic schedules for students without immunization documentation. DGCE students registering for a full-time academic schedule (Graduates, 9 credits), who are tardy with their Health Form, are allowed **30 days** from the beginning of a semester to comply with

immunization requirements.

The requirements of 105 CMR 220.600 shall not apply where:

- a. The student provides written documentation that he/she meets the standards for medical or religious exemption set forth in M.G.L. c. 76 § 15C.
 - i. The student may provide a statement from a physician who has examined such student and in whose opinion the physical condition of the student is such that his/her health would be endangered by any immunization/s; or,
 - ii. In absence of an emergency or epidemic of disease declared by the Department of Public Health, no student who states in writing that such immunization would conflict with his/her religious beliefs shall be required to present such medical certificates in order to be admitted to such institution.
- b. The student provides some other appropriate documentation, including a copy of a school immunization record, indicating receipt of the required immunizations; or
- c. In the case of Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Hepatitis B, Varicella the student presents laboratory evidence of immunity.

Students who do not comply with immunization mandates due to medical or religious exemptions will be requested to complete an Immunization Exemption Waiver.

Note: WSU may exclude non-immunized students from classes if there is a campus occurrence of vaccine preventable disease.

NON-COMPLIANCE

Non-compliant students will be notified on the following schedule:

- a. DGCE students will be emailed one notification allowing 30 days to submit required documentation.
- b. DGCE will place administrative withdrawals and “holds” on the accounts of their non-compliant students, and will withdraw the student to a less than full-time academic schedule. Students may be reinstated and “holds” removed upon receipt of complete immunization documentation and/or health forms. A reinstatement fee could be charged.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Program Director and Director of Clinical Education, or as Massachusetts General Law changes.