

Division Policies & Procedures

Subject: Student Clinical Immunization Requirements

Effective date: 8.7.2019

Responsibility: Program Directors, Clinical Coordinators

Review date: 7.11.2023

Purpose: Texas Administrative Code Rule §97.64 requires that students enrolled in non-veterinary health-related programs with direct patient care and/or potential exposure to blood or body fluids complete the following immunizations:

1. Tetanus-Diphtheria-Acellular Pertussis Immunization. All students must have proof of a tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis (Tdap) immunization within the last 10 years. One dose of a tetanus containing vaccine (Td) is an acceptable substitute if Tdap is medically contraindicated.
2. Measles, Mumps, Rubella Vaccines.
 - a. Students born on or after January 1, 1957, must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of two doses of a measles-containing vaccine administered since January 1, 1968 (preferably MMR vaccine).
 - b. Students born on or after January 1, 1957, must show, prior to patient contact acceptable evidence of vaccination of two doses of a mumps vaccine.
 - c. Students must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of one dose of rubella vaccine.
3. Hepatitis B Vaccine. Students are required to receive a complete series of hepatitis B vaccine prior to the start of direct patient care. An accelerated schedule, as recommended by the CDC, may be followed, with the first dose administered, followed by second dose in 4 weeks; and followed by 3rd dose at least 4 months from initial dose and 8 weeks from 2nd dose.
4. Varicella Vaccine. Students are required to have two doses of varicella vaccine.

Additionally, students enrolled in health professions programs at McLennan Community College will be required to complete annual tuberculosis screening and seasonal influenza vaccination as required for clinical rotations.

Students enrolled in veterinary programs are required to complete the following immunizations:

1. Rabies Vaccine. Students whose coursework involves direct contact with animals or animal remains shall receive a complete primary series of rabies vaccine prior to contact. Serum antibody levels should be checked every two years, with administration of a booster dose as needed according to CDC guidelines.
2. Hepatitis B Vaccine. Students are required to receive a complete series of hepatitis B vaccine prior to the start of coursework that involves potential exposure to human or animal blood or bodily fluids.

3. Tetanus-Diphtheria-Acellular Pertussis Immunization. All students must have proof of a tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis (Tdap) immunization within the last 10 years. One dose of a tetanus containing vaccine (Td) is an acceptable substitute if Tdap is medically contraindicated.

COVID-19 Vaccines:

McLennan Community College does not require students in Health Professions programs to receive COVID-19 vaccinations. However, clinical affiliates may require students and clinical faculty to be vaccinated against COVID-19 or provide a college approved exemption.

Health Professions programs will accept any documented series of COVID-19 vaccine authorized, approved, or otherwise in compliance with CDC and FDA guidelines.

Exemptions for COVID-19 vaccinations are reviewed by the Program Director and Dean, Health Professions and are granted on a case-by-case basis. Exemptions granted for participation in a McLennan Health Professions program does not guarantee that a graduate will receive an exemption from future employers.

Lack of Documentation:

Students who claim to have had a complete series of vaccinations, as described above, but have not properly documented them, cannot participate in course work activities that involve direct patient contact with potential exposure to blood or bodily fluids in an educational or medical facility, or direct contact with animals or animal remains until such time as proper documentation has been submitted and accepted by the program.

Provisional Enrollment

Texas Administrative Code §97.64 permits students to be provisionally enrolled if the student has received at least one dose of each specific vaccine prior to enrollment and completes each series as quickly as medically feasible according to CDC Adult Immunization schedule.

Provisionally enrolled students may not participate in direct patient care or animal care until full vaccination series have been administered.

Limited Exceptions:

Serological Confirmation of Immunity

Students may provide serologic confirmation of immunity (titer) to measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, or varicella. (TAC §97.65) A valid laboratory report must indicate confirmation of either immunity or infection and must be provided prior to participation in coursework.

There is no exemption process for immunizations required by Title 25, Texas Administrative Code 97.64.

Policy:

Students must provide proper documentation of all vaccinations prior to coursework involving patient or animal contact according to Texas Administrative Code and Division Policy. Students may not participate in coursework until proper documentation has been submitted and accepted.

Procedures:

TB Testing: McLennan Health Professions students and faculty must complete TB blood testing (interferon-gamma release assay or IGRA). There are currently two FDA approved blood tests the QuantiFERON TB Gold Plus (QFT Plus) and the T-Spot TB test (T-spot).

Students who are continuously enrolled and faculty who are continuously employed will only require one blood test and then completion of an annual TB symptom screening form.

A health care provider will draw blood and send it to a laboratory for analysis and results. Students are responsible for uploading results into Complio.

Positive TB blood test: This means that the person has been infected with TB bacteria. Additional tests are needed to determine if the person has latent TB infection or TB disease.

Negative TB blood test: This means that the person's blood did not react to the test and that latent TB infection or TB disease is not likely.

COVID-19 Vaccinations: Current CDC guidelines state that you are compliant with one (1) updated Pfizer-BioTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Updated vaccines are "bivalent" and protect against the original COVID-19 virus and the Omicron variant BA.4 and BA.5.

For purposes of immunization compliance, McLennan Health Professions will accept any documented series of COVID-19 vaccine authorized, approved or otherwise in compliance with the CDC and FDA guidelines.

McLennan Community College does not require the COVID-19 vaccine. However, some clinical partners require this vaccine and students may not be able to complete clinical requirements or attend clinical at particular locations without current vaccinations. Unvaccinated faculty may not be able to complete clinical assignments without current vaccinations.

The exemption process is explained within the body of this policy.

Students are responsible for reporting compliance with COVID-19 vaccinations by uploading documentation into Complio.

Resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016). Recommended Vaccines for Healthcare Workers. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/hcw.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2023) COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022). TB Screening and Testing of Health Care Personnel. <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/testing/healthcareworkers.htm>

Texas Administrative Code. (2016). Rule §97.64. Required Vaccinations for Students Enrolled in Health-related and Veterinary Courses in Institutions of Higher Education.

[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=25&pt=1&ch=97&rl=64](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=25&pt=1&ch=97&rl=64)

Texas Administrative Code. (2016). Rule §97.65. Exceptions to Immunization Requirements (Verification of Immunity/History of Illness).

[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=T&app=9&p_dir=N&p_rloc=145702&p_tloc=&p_ploc=1&pg=2&p_tac=&ti=25&pt=1&ch=97&rl=64](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=T&app=9&p_dir=N&p_rloc=145702&p_tloc=&p_ploc=1&pg=2&p_tac=&ti=25&pt=1&ch=97&rl=64)

Texas Department of State Health Services. (2019 July 31). Texas Minimum Vaccine Requirements for Students Enrolled in Healthcare of Veterinary Coursework.

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/school/healthcare-veterinary.aspx>