

Student Vaccine FAQs

General Questions

What if I do not have a PCP to sign my Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) form?

- You can supply your complete immunization record, titer lab report(s), and TB test results in lieu of having the form signed by a provider.

If I do not have a PCP, where can I go to get required immunizations and titers?

- You can get your immunizations from a local pharmacy (Walgreens, CVS, Walmart etc.) or a local urgent care center. You can get your titer(s) at Any Lab Test Now (anylabtestnow.com) your own provider or an urgent care center.

I can't find my childhood immunization records; what do I do?

- You can get a MMR titer, Hepatitis B titer, and Varicella titer to test for immunity. If any of your titers come back negative/non-immune, you will need to complete the full vaccine series. You will need a current Tdap and TB test.

What if I would like to be exempted from one or more of the vaccination requirements?

- The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center affiliate institutions do require students training at their locations to comply with all applicable site policies, including vaccinations. Those policies vary by location and some site policies do not contain exemptions.

Hepatitis B

This is the requirement that could take up to 6 months to complete – we recommend that you start on this in January.

I don't have a Hepatitis B titer in my childhood immunization records, is it too late for me to get one now since I had the Hepatitis B vaccines as a child?

- No, you can get a **Quantitative Hepatitis B Surface Antibody Titer** now.

Where can I get a **Quantitative Hepatitis B Surface Antibody Titer**?

- You can contact your PCP, Any Lab Test Now (anylabtestnow.com) or a local urgent care center.

What do I do if I have a non-reactive titer?

- **You must start a new 2 dose Hepatitis B vaccination series immediately.** There are different formulas of the Hepatitis B vaccine. **The two-dose series is encouraged (Heplisav-B) due to less waiting time between doses and the titer draw. This process will take 2-3 months if the two dose series is selected.**
- The vaccination series will be followed by another quantitative Hepatitis B surface antibody titer.

Flu Vaccine

Is a flu vaccine required?

- Yes, a flu vaccine will be offered in Student Health in October/November. Campus compliance for flu vaccines is November 15th every year.

MMR

What if I have never had the MMR vaccines or I am unsure of my MMR vaccination status and MMR titers do not show immunity?

- You will need to receive 2 MMR vaccines, given 28 days apart.

What if I received 2 doses of MMR, but my titer is still negative/non-immune?

- You should receive 1 MMR booster, then repeat the titer 4 weeks later.

Varicella

I had chicken pox as a child; what should I do?

- You will need to have a varicella titer to prove immunity. History of disease is not accepted as proof of immunity.

What if I had chicken pox as a child, but have a negative/non-immune titer?

- You will need to receive 2 doses of Varicella vaccine, given 28 days apart.

What if I cannot find documentation of Varicella vaccine and I am not sure if I have had chickenpox?

- You will need to receive 2 doses of Varicella vaccine, given 28 days apart.

What if I received 2 doses of Varicella, but my titer is still negative/non-immune?

- You should receive 1 Varicella booster, then repeat the titer 4 weeks later.

TB Testing

Can I get a TB skin test, or do you require a blood test?

- You can get either, as long as it is done on or after January 1st of the year you start.

Do I have to do 2 TB skin tests?

- If you elect to do a TB skin test, you only need to submit 1 negative test done on or after January 1st of the year you start.

I have had a positive TB test; what do I do?

- If your positive test was a TB skin test, it is recommended to have a Quantiferon Gold drawn to rule out a false-positive skin test. If you have had a positive IGRA (Quantiferon Gold or T-Spot), you will need to submit a chest x-ray completed on or after January 1st of the year you start. If you've completed latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) treatment, you will need to submit documentation, along with a current chest x-ray.

What if my last chest x-ray is less than 5 years ago?

- You will need to have a new chest x-ray done on or after January 1st of the year you start. This is a requirement when you're starting at a new institution. This chest x-ray will be valid the time you're a student at UTSW. However, certain off-campus clinic rotations may require a new one.

