

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding Immunizations

Documentation

Question (Q): What type of documentation is acceptable for my immunizations?

Answer (A): We accept records from your healthcare provider, childhood immunization records, and records from your employer, when employed with a hospital system. All current immunization documentation must include:

- Your name and provider name
- Vaccination type (MMR, etc.)
- Date of vaccine administration
- Name or initials of individual who administered the injection
- When submitting a titer, include the lab report and interpretation. Please note, MMR must be listed separately (Mumps, Measles, Rubella) with lab value for each.

Acceptable documentation of immunizations includes ONE of the following:

- A completed immunization record that is signed by your health care provider.
- Documentation of vaccines administered that includes the signature or stamp of the physician or his/her designee, or public health personnel.
- An official immunization record generated from a state or local health authority, such as a county health department.

Q: I have a religious, conscientious, or other objection to receiving one or more of the vaccines. Can I submit documentation of this?

A: No, the vaccine requirements are requirements of our hospital sites and the DFW Hospital Council. See exemptions section for additional information.

Q: I have a record from my elementary or high school and/or another college or school of nursing. May I submit that?

A: No, we do not accept public education records. Additionally, we do not accept records from other colleges.

Q: I have a childhood immunization and/or county health record but it doesn't have lot numbers or expiration dates. May I submit that?

A: Yes, we do accept childhood immunization records and county health records without lot #, etc. as long they are signed or stamped by your provider or the county clerk.

Q. What Vaccinations must I receive?

A: The following vaccinations and titers are required

- Hep B vaccinations and surface antibody titer
 - Documentation of 3 Hep B immunizations or 2 Heplisav-B immunizations AND Surface Antibody titer (Anti-HBs, HBsAB) lab report showing immunity
 - OR
 - Surface Antibody titer (Anti-HBs, HBsAB) lab report showing immunity OR
 - Documentation of 2 full series of immunizations followed by 1 Surface Antibody titer showing not immune status PLUS Hepatitis B Non-Responder Form
- MMR - antibody titer showing immunity or titer not showing immunity followed by 2 vaccinations
- Varicella - antibody titer showing immunity or titer not showing immunity followed by 2 vaccinations
- Tdap - 1 vaccination within past 10 years
- Influenza (flu) - 1 vaccination each Fall/Winter
- TB testing annually

Titers

Q: What is a titer?

A: A titer is a laboratory test that measures the presence and amount of antibodies in blood. A titer may be used to prove immunity to disease. A blood sample is taken and tested. If the test is positive (above a particular known value) the individual has immunity. This is not the same as a vaccination. Any titers submitted must be quantitative.

Q: I have a Hep B Varicella, and/or MMR titer that shows immunity, but I don't have documentation of my immunization series. Is the titer sufficient or do I have to do the series over again?

A: For now, the titer proving immunity is sufficient. Please note, some clinical sites (such as the pediatric hospitals and units, for example) may require documentation of the series as well as the titer. In that instance, you would need to locate the series.

Q: My titer for Measles, Mumps, Rubella, or Varicella is equivocal or negative. What do I do?

A: For an equivocal or negative Rubella titer, you need one additional MMR booster. You do not need to run an additional antibody titer.

For an equivocal or negative Mumps, Measles, or Varicella titer, you must complete the full series (MMR for Mumps or Measles; Varicella for Varicella) again. You do not need to run an additional antibody titer.

Hep B

Q: How long does it take to complete the Hepatitis B Series?

A: A series for Hepatitis B requires **one** of the following options:

- **Traditional Dosing:** 3 shots administered over a period of approximately 6 months (schedule of 0,1,6 months). The second shot is due 1-2 months after the first, and the third shot is due 5-6 months after the second. The minimum interval between the first two doses is 4 weeks, and the minimum interval between the second and third doses is 8 weeks. However, the first and third doses should be separated by no less than 16 weeks.
- **HepBisav-B:** 2 shots administered with 28 days between them
- **Travel "Accelerated" Dosing:** 4 shots administered over a period of approximately 12 months (schedule of 0, 7, and 21–30 days) with a booster 12 months after the last dose to promote long-term immunity and to complete the series.

Q: Can I do the Twinrix (Hep A/Hep B combo) series?

A: Yes, you may do Twinrix which covers both Hep A and Hep B. Please note, if you start the Twinrix series, you must finish the Twinrix series. Do not switch to the single Hep A or Hep B midstream.

Q: I had my Hep B series as a teenager or young child and have the record. Is this sufficient for the school?

A: Yes; however, you will still be required to have a Hep B Surface Antibody titer to ensure immunity.

Q: Do I have to have the Hep B titer if I've already completed the series?

A: Yes, the surface antibody titer is required for Hep B even if you have documentation of the series.

Q: What if my titer shows that I am not immune? What do I do if I have to repeat the series?

A: If you do not show immunity to Hepatitis B, you must:

1. Take one dose of Hepatitis B, wait 28 days and retitle.
2. If you still showing no/low immunity after a challenge/booster dose you must complete the series and retitle.

OR

1. Repeat the immunization series in full and then run retitle at least 28 days later.

Q: What if my second titer shows that I am not immune?

A: Students who have had 2 complete Hepatitis B series and 2 titers showing non-immune must contact the Program Coordinators for next steps. You will also need to provide documentation of all immunizations.

MMR

Q: How long does it take to complete the 2 MMR vaccines?

A: MMR vaccines are given 4 weeks, 28 days, apart.

Q: Do I have to have a titer for MMR?

A: Yes, antibody titers are required for Measles, Mumps and Rubella. If your titer does not show immunity to Measles or Mumps you will need to get 2 doses of the vaccine after the negative or equivocal titer. If your titer does not show immunity to Rubella you will need to get 1 dose of the vaccine after the negative or equivocal titer.

Please note: MMR and Varicella are live vaccines. These must be completed at the same time otherwise you must wait at least 28 days until you can receive the next vaccine. These live vaccines can cause false positive results with TB testing, so 28 days is required between a receiving a live vaccine and a TB test.

Varicella

Q: I had Chicken Pox as a child. Do I still need to get the Varicella vaccinations?

A: A history of chicken pox is not proof of immunity. Only a titer can be used as proof of immunity. If you have had chicken pox in the past, you can get an IgG quantitative titer drawn. You do not have to get the vaccinations, but you must get a titer to show that you have the immunity.

Q: I had only one Varicella shot and then I got a positive titer. Do I have to complete the second shot since my titer is positive?

A: Yes, if you submit only one Varicella shot and a positive titer, you still have to complete the series, per the pediatrics unit on that rotation.

Q: Do I have to have a titer for Varicella?

A: You are required to provide a titer for Varicella. If your titer does not show immunity you will need to get 2 doses of the vaccine after the negative or equivocal titer.

Please note: MMR and Varicella are live vaccines. These must be completed at the same time otherwise you must wait at least 28 days until you can receive the next vaccine. These live vaccines can cause false positive results with TB testing, so 28 days is required between a receiving a live vaccine and a TB test.

Tdap

Q: My tetanus/diphtheria (Td) immunization was within the past 10 years. Do I still need to get a Tdap?

A: You must have a Tdap within the last 10 years regardless of when your Td was completed.

Q: I received my Tdap over 10 years ago. Do I have to get another one or will a new Td suffice? What is the expiration date for Tdap?

A: If your Tdap was taken more than 10 years ago, you must receive an updated vaccine.

Q: I had Td/DPT/DtaP in the past. Will this meet the requirement?

A: Only the Tdap vaccination will meet the requirement. Td/DPT/DtaP will not meet the requirement.

Influenza (Flu) Vaccine

Q: The flu vaccination is not available this time of year and I have not had it within the last year. What do I do?

A: You will not be penalized for missing the flu vaccination requirement unless it is the appropriate time of year and you have not had it. As soon as the flu vaccination is offered, you will need to be vaccinated and upload documentation to the immunization portal. You will need to receive the flu vaccination every year around September or October.

TB Testing

Q: I was told my tuberculosis screening was good for two years. DO I have to get screened again this year?

A: Any screening for Tb expires after 1 year. This includes all forms of screening. If you received a skin test, x-ray or blood test, it will expire in our system after exactly 1 year and you will need to provide updated documentation.

Q: Can I use a chest x-ray for TB clearance?

A: A chest x-ray is only accepted with documentation of a positive TB skin or positive/indeterminate blood test. If you do not have documentation of a positive test you cannot use a chest x-ray for clearance.

Q: My TB blood test was indeterminate or positive. What do I do now?

A: You will need to submit proof of the test along with a copy of your negative chest x-ray report.

Q: I have a history of positive TB skin tests because I had the BCG immunization. What do I do?

A: You may either do a QuantiFERON or T-spot OR you may submit documentation of a positive TB skin test along with a negative chest x-ray taken within the last year.

Q: What do I do if I have tested positive in the past to a PPD?

A: You will need to submit documentation of the positive test and receive a chest x-ray to prove that you do not currently have tuberculosis.