

FAQ'S—Immunizations for Health Science Students

What if I am unable to obtain documentation for my childhood vaccines?

If official documentation is not obtainable from your physician's office, primary or secondary school or military records, the following is required:

1. Receive two-step TB testing **OR** IGRA testing.
2. Receive Tdap vaccine.
3. Have the following blood tests drawn – Rubella antibody IgG; Mumps antibody IgG; Rubella antibody IgG.
4. If you have completed the Hepatitis B vaccine series; also have a Hepatitis B Surface Antibody, quantitative test drawn.
5. If you had the chickenpox disease, have a Varicella IgG drawn. If you have not had the chickenpox, you must have two doses of Varicella vaccine.

Can I get immunizations and titers at Student Health?

Yes. Student Health provides immunization services during immunization walk-in hours. The current prices for vaccines are posted on our website at <https://health.students.vcu.edu/immunizations/>. Your required titers can be obtained at Student Health Services on a fee for service basis. If you have a latex allergy or prior allergy to vaccine components, please contact Student Health **prior** to attending immunization clinic walk in hours to discuss vaccine options with the registered nurse.

Do I have to get a MMR titer if I have documentation of two vaccines?

At this time, VCU does not require a MMR titer if you have documentation of two doses of MMR vaccine administered after your first birthday and the two doses are spaced at least 28 days apart. If you do not have documentation of two doses, you will be required to have titer results. If the titer is negative, one or two booster doses of vaccine will be required and is based on the titer results for each of the three diseases (Measles, Mumps & Rubella). Please note, however, some off site rotations require MMR titers and you may need to have the titer at a later date.

What are the Hepatitis B requirements?

VCU currently requires 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine **and** serological evidence of immunity.

What if my Hepatitis B titer is negative?

If your Hepatitis B titer is negative, you will need to be revaccinated according to the current recommendations from the CDC. Once you complete the recommended doses, you will receive another titer 30-60 days later (CDC Healthcare Personnel Vaccinations Recommendations, 3/2018, <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2017.pdf>).

If your titer is still negative after the 3 additional doses of Hepatitis B vaccine, contact University Student Health Services to discuss your follow-up options. If you are considered a non-responder, you will be counseled on the risks of blood and body fluid exposures.

If I had chickenpox, do I need a Varicella titer?

Yes, VCU's policy states if student had the chickenpox, a Varicella titer is required. If the titer is positive, no further action is needed. If the Varicella titer is negative, you will need 2 doses of Varicella vaccine.

If you were vaccinated against chickenpox disease, you will need documentation of 2 doses of vaccine **OR** a positive Varicella titer. Titer after vaccination is not required.

What is the Tdap requirement?

Health science students are required to have either a current dose of Tdap vaccine within the last 10 years **OR** documented expired dose of Tdap (2005 or later) **AND** a current Td.

What is a two-step TB test and do I need it?

A two-step TB test requires having one TB test administered and read then a second test administered and read 7-30 days later. If you have had an annual TB test done consecutively for the last five years, you can submit these testing dates and results in place of the two-step TB testing requirement

What is an IGRA test for TB?

In lieu of a two-step TB test, you may opt to have the one visit, one step IGRA test. This is a blood test specific to the TB mycobacteria. If the test is negative, no further action is required until your annual TB screening is due.

Information on TB two-step testing and IGRA testing can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/testing/default.htm>.

What if my TB test is positive?

You will be required to have a chest x-ray to rule out active TB disease. You may discuss your results with one of our clinic nurses by calling the immunization help desk at 804-827-8047 during regular business hours. Once your information is reviewed, we can help you with the next steps and annual requirements.

What if I have a history of a positive TB test?

If you have a history of positive TB skin test or IGRA, you will need to complete a TB symptom survey annually. You will need to submit a chest x-ray result dated within the prior six months of an August 1 start date. If you were treated for latent TB infection (LTBI), please submit your treatment documentation.

What about the Meningitis vaccine?

While we strongly encourage all students to protect themselves against Meningitis with one dose of meningitis vaccine after the 16th birthday or you may opt out of this vaccine by signing the Meningitis vaccine waiver found on your VCU Health Science Certificate of Immunization form.

How do you communicate with me regarding follow up?

VCU Student Health Services utilizes secure messaging to protect your personal information. A secure email will be sent through your VCU email account notifying you if a message is available. You will need to login to the VCU Student Health web portal to read your message. Please do not ignore these messages as they contain important information about your immunization status.

How do I know if VCU has received my immunization records?

Records received by Student Health are entered into your student web portal health record. If you are unsure of the status of receipt, please access your student health web portal to verify receipt. You may also view and print your immunization record from the web portal at any time.

I need a copy of my immunization records. What should I do?

Keep a copy of your immunization forms with your important papers prior to submitting paperwork to Student Health. You can print your immunization records from your student health web portal. If you need to have records completed for an off-site rotation, please make a nurse appointment to have your records reviewed and recorded on your rotation paperwork. You may schedule this appointment at either campus.

I need my off-site rotation paperwork completed. What should I do?

Student Health is available to help you complete your off site rotation paperwork. Please complete as much of your paperwork as possible before the visit. Then, make an appointment with the clinic nurse to review your forms for completion and signature. You can reach the appointment desk at 804-828-9220 at the VCU Medical Campus or 804-828-8828 at the Monroe Park Campus.