Immunizations and Tuberculosis Clearance

Q—Why do I need to submit my immunization records and serum titers?
A—Many clinical rotation sites that our student’s rotate through require copies of both your immunization records and serum titer results. When you are preparing to start at a clinical rotation site that requires this information, you will just need to contact the Student-Employee Health Coordinator and the information can be provided immediately instead of days or weeks later (If you are having trouble locating your immunization records, you may want to check with your high school/undergraduate college/university Health Center to see if they have a copy of your vaccination history).

Q—If my healthcare provider writes a note stating the student “is up-to-date on all vaccines,” is this acceptable?
A—No. Documentation requirements for your health records must show the specific dates you received the vaccines. Health records may be in the form of original vaccination records (or a clear copy) or a letter from the healthcare provider on their letterhead or printed prescription (no emails allowed) stating the vaccine name and dates each was administered. The letter must be signed by the healthcare provider. We will not accept school records, family member statements or baby book entries.

Q—If I get behind in a vaccination series (i.e., hepatitis B, MMR or varicella), what should I do?
A—You will pick up where you left off and complete the vaccination series. For example, you received 2 of the 3 vaccinations for hepatitis B but you have not received the 3rd dose of the vaccine. If it has been less than 5 years since you started the series, then you can go ahead and just receive the final dose. If more than 5 years have lapsed, it is recommended that with some vaccines you start the entire series over. Your healthcare provider can help evaluate what you should do. If you can show you have started a vaccine series, you will be allowed to register for your first semester, but until you provide proof you have completed the series, you will not be allowed to register for any subsequent semesters/classes.

Q—If I received a vaccine dose earlier than the minimum interval recommended, is this acceptable?
A—No it is not. The dose of vaccine is invalid and must be re-administered after the minimum interval has been met. For example, the hepatitis B minimum intervals are as follows: Dose 1 is administered. Dose 2 should be separated from dose 1 by at least one month (4 weeks or 28 days). Dose 3 should be separated from dose 2 by at least 2 months (8 weeks) AND from dose 1 by at least 4 months (16 weeks).

Q—Will vaccines interfere with my TB skin test (TST) results?
A—Some vaccines may. For example, the MMR vaccine may interfere with TST results (may have a false negative result in someone who actually has an infection with TB) if the vaccine is administered within 4-weeks of the TST. However, the MMR vaccine can be administered at the same time and on the same day as the TST. The hepatitis B, tetanus and rabies vaccines can be administered any time without interfering with TST results.

Q—How do I know if my 1st TST will be accepted or counted?
A—If you have received the first TST performed on or after July 1st of last year through June 30th of this year, you will only need to have the second TST between July 1st and August 31st of this year. If you have not had a TST in more than one year, you are required to complete the 2-Step TST process before your complete TB clearance requirement has been met. The 2nd TST must be administered between July 1st and August 31st of this year in order for it to be valid throughout the entire academic year (August through June).

Q—If I am pregnant can I be vaccinated safely?
A—Some vaccines can be administered safely during pregnancy. However, it is recommended that you consult with your obstetrician prior to receiving any vaccines.

Q—If I received the TB skin test at WesternU, can I have a healthcare provider at a non-WesternU clinical rotation site read the TB skin test results and document them?
A—If your clinical site is near the main campus in Pomona, then the answer is no. It must be read at WesternU and documentation must then be provided to the Student-Employee Health Coordinator located on the Pomona campus. However, if your clinical rotation site is not near the main campus, you can have the TB skin test read by the Employee/Occupational Health nurse at the clinical facility you are rotating through. The results can be faxed to 909-706-3785 or scanned and emailed to stu-emphealth@westernu.edu
Q—Will WesternU accept a T-spot test for TB clearance?
A—Yes, but ONLY if you will be attending our Lebanon, Oregon campus.

Q—Can I just have a Quantiferon blood test for TB clearance?
A—Due to state laws in California regarding healthcare worker TB clearance, we cannot accept this type of test result at this time. If you are attending in Pomona, California, you must obtain a Tuberculosis Skin Test (aka, TST and PPD). If you are attending in Lebanon, Oregon, you can submit the blood test as part of your TB clearance requirements.

Q—I am healthy. Why should I be required to show that I have been immunized?
A—As members of the WesternU community, it is very important for all of us to be free from communicable diseases that can threaten those around us. Many of these diseases are preventable with appropriate vaccination. Also, in order for you to participate in your required clinical rotations, you must be able to show proof that you are not at risk for contracting a vaccine preventable communicable disease.

Q—if I received my second Hepatitis B vaccine later than recommended after the first vaccine, how soon after getting the second Hepatitis B vaccine can I receive the third and final Hepatitis B vaccine?
A—if you had the 2nd vaccine several months after the first one, you can receive your 3rd and final Hepatitis B vaccine 60-days after the 2nd vaccine. A serum blood titer is still required 30-days after vaccine number three.

Q—if I have completed 2 full Hepatitis B series (1 series consists of 3 vaccines) over a period of 6 months and my titer is still showing I have no immunity, do I need to receive another series?
A—No, because most likely you are a non-converter, however, you will need to provide us with the documentation showing that you have completed 2 entire Hepatitis B vaccination series and a current Hepatitis B Surface Ab, QN titer.

Titers

Q—What titers should I ask my physician/healthcare provider to order?
A—Hepatitis B, Surf AB QN; Measles AB IgG, EIA; Rubella Antibodies, IgG; Mumps Antibodies, IgG; Varicella IgG AB.
NOTE: these are the ONLY titer results we will accept.

Q—Can I get my blood drawn and sent for titer testing at WesternU?
A—Yes. For your convenience you can go to the:
Pomona, California Students
Western University Medical Center
795 E. Second Street, Suite 5
Pomona, CA 91766
909-865-2565 (phone) 909-865-2955 (fax)

(If you choose to use the Pomona facility, you must make an appointment for both the physical and the lab titers. The day of your appointment, stop by the Student-Employee Health Coordinator’s office, located in the Business Center, Room 110 to obtain the order forms for the labs and/or chest x-ray)
You will have to pay a fee for the blood to be drawn and processed. It can take 5 days or more before the results are available.

You are responsible for payment. You cannot pay for this from your student account on campus. Please see the Student Immunization Fee Schedule attached at the end of this packet.

Lebanon, Oregon Students
Samaritan Occupational Medicine – Lebanon
100 Mullins Drive Suite B-2
Lebanon OR 97355
541-451-7505 (phone)
541-451-7019 (fax)
Q—What should I do if the blood titers show I am not immune to the vaccine preventable disease(s)?
A—Unless you have a documented medical condition that contraindicates the administration of the vaccine(s); you must be vaccinated/revaccinated for those diseases that you have no immunity against. This is a mandatory requirement for any student at WesternU.

Q—When is a rabies titer needed?
If you are a veterinary medicine student who has completed the rabies vaccination series (3 vaccines) you are required to have a rabies titer and submit the titer results along with the dates you received each of the rabies vaccine. In accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the recommended serum blood test for rabies is called rapid fluorescent focus inhibition test (RFFIT). No other rabies testing results will be accepted. Please note you can also have these drawn at the Western University Medical Center located in the Patient Care Center in Pomona California. (CDC Rabies information: http://cdc.gov/rabies/specific_groups/doctors/serology.html)

Q—What would happen to me if I don’t complete the health clearance requirements?
A—Every incoming student, whether new to WesternU, repeating or returning from a leave of absence, is required to comply with the health clearance requirements. If you do not complete these requirements, a registration hold will be placed, or in extreme cases, withdrawal of your being accepted to attend WesternU may occur.

Q—If my healthcare provider writes a note stating I have had a communicable disease, is this acceptable?
A—No. Per the State of California Airborne Transmissible Disease regulations, documentation of select communicable diseases that were “physician diagnosed” and not confirmed through blood tests, are no longer accepted as evidence of immunity. Because of this, the required vaccine preventable diseases that have blood tests to determine if immunity exists or not(referred to as titers), are required for hepatitis B, measles, mumps, rubella and varicella if immunization records are not available or are incomplete.

Q—If I have had the Hepatitis B disease and my physician states I do not need to have the Hepatitis B vaccination series, what should I ask my physician to include in the health records and documents sent back to Western University?
A—Have your physician provide the lab test results that confirm a prior Hepatitis B diagnosis (see form D for the additional required serum titers) and include a note about your Hepatitis B disease on the History and Physical examination form your physician completes. (This would also apply to those persons who have a “native immunity” to Hepatitis B.)

Q—What if I have a health condition that is a contraindication to receiving a particular vaccination?
A—a letter from your healthcare provider attesting to this contraindication will be acceptable. However, if your current health status is such that a particular immunization is temporarily contraindicated, you will still be responsible for obtaining that immunization as soon as your health issue has resolved and prior to starting any clinical rotation.

Q—What if my religious beliefs do not allow me to be immunized?
A—There is no religious exemption from the University immunization requirements. One should explore with his/her health care provider for the availability of vaccine formulations that do not involve the use of blood products, or document immunity as a result of prior infection. The University’s commitment to minimize the potential harm to patients or colleagues that you may encounter in your future career is of paramount concern to the university, so that only a permanent medical contraindication to vaccination will exempt a prospective student from the University’s immunization requirements.

Q—Can I participate in clinical rotations if I am still updating/completing the required vaccines?
A—in order for you to be able to start your clinical rotations you must have had at least 2 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine, completed the MMR and varicella series. You must stay on schedule and provide proof that you have completed the required vaccinations or you will be removed from clinical rotations and will not be allowed to register for the next semester.

Q—If I am pregnant, can I participate in my clinical rotations without having completed the required vaccinations?
A pregnant student can receive a temporary medical exemption and still participate in some clinical rotations. However, it is strongly recommended that you work closely with your faculty advisor to determine if it is permitted by the clinical site you would be going to.

**Q—Can I receive all health clearance requirements (physical, vaccines, titer blood serum, TB tests and chest x-ray) at Western University of Health Sciences?**

**A—**Yes, all requirements can be completed either at the Medical Center or Pharmacy, both located in the Patient Care Center on the Pomona campus. If you need a physical exam, serum blood titer, or chest x-ray, please contact the Medical Center at (909) 865-2565 to schedule an appointment. If you need vaccines or a TB skin test, contact the Pharmacy at (909) 706-3730. No appointment is needed for Pharmacy services. Please see the last page for The Student Immunization Fee Schedule.

**Q—Do you only accept mailed copies of all of the required health clearance documents?**

**A—**No. You can submit them by fax (909-706-3785), email to stu-emphealth@westernu.edu or hand carry them in to the Student-Employee Health Coordinator located in the Business Center at 479 E. Second Street, Room 110, Pomona, CA 91766-1854.

**Q—Do I need to get a TST if I have a history of a positive TST?**

**A—**No. You are required to obtain a chest x-ray (x-ray cannot be more than 6 months old from the time of your submitting your health clearance forms) and complete the TB symptoms checklist included in this packet. We do not need the actual chest x-ray film, we only need the radiologist’s written report.

**Q—How long will it take to process my health clearance forms?**

**A—**5 working days from the date we receive ALL of your required health clearance forms. If you have not received a confirmation email from the Student-Employee Health Coordinator by the end of the 5th day, you can contact us. Note: all forms are processed on a first come, first served basis.
IMMUNIZATIONS AND TITERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immunization</th>
<th>Cost Per Vaccine</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>$68.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>MMR</td>
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<td>Influenza</td>
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**Fees**

Cash: $10.00 Phlebotomy fee
Cash: Lab Corp cost of the needed titers
Physical: $75.00
Follow Up visit: $55.00
They may use Insurance or cash

**Veterinary Students Only**

| Rabies       | $266.95        |

New Student Admission Required  Titers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Titers</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B Sur AB QN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rubeola AB IgG, EIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rubella Antibodies, IgG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mumps Antibodies, IgG</td>
<td>$13.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicella IgG AB</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
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</tbody>
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**Chest X-ray:** $57.00
Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center
Radiology Department, located on 2nd floor of Patient Care Center.

NOTE: For cash/credit card payments no radiology reading fee. If billed to insurance there is a radiology reading fee for a total of $479.00

**Veterinary Students ONLY**

Rabies Titer
Cash: $10.00 Phlebotomy fee
Check: $100.00 made out to the College of Veterinary Medicine

3/14/13