

University of Alabama at Birmingham

IMMUNIZATION POLICY

March 20, 2002

(Replaces policy dated December 4, 2000)

[Edited February 11, 2009, for change in unit name]

Introduction

The American College Health Association recommends that students be immunized against certain diseases. Therefore, UAB hereby establishes this policy on immunization.

For purposes of this policy, immunization against Rubeola (Red Measles) includes an initial vaccine plus a second dose of vaccine (see below).

First-time Entering UAB Students

All first-time entering students born on or after January 1, 1957, who enroll in credit courses on UAB's main campus must show proof of immunization against Rubeola (Red Measles). (*Two doses are required for proof of previous immunization: Dose 1 must have been given at 12 months after birth or later, and Dose 2 must have been given after 1980.*) Enrolling students must show proof of these immunizations with either an official certificate of immunization, a photocopy of an immunization certificate, or written documentation from their physician. If the person has never been immunized, two injections of the vaccine at least one month apart are required.

International Students and International Scholars

Because of the disparity of immunization requirements among many foreign countries, all UAB international students and international scholars are required to be immunized against Tetanus, Diphtheria, Mumps, Rubeola (Red Measles), and Rubella (German Measles). In lieu of being re-immunized, such individuals may present proof of having had such immunizations. If they do not have such proof or have not been immunized, they must be immunized against these diseases prior to attending, enrolling, or participating in UAB academic, research, observing, or clinical programs and activities.

Furthermore, all international students and international scholars must show proof of a non-reactive Tuberculin skin test (or appropriate treatment if positive) within three months prior to enrollment or visiting. Individuals who have a history of reactive Tuberculin skin testing must provide a current chest x-ray (taken since their last reactive skin test but within three months prior to enrollment or visiting) indicating that the person currently is clear of Tuberculosis.

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Students Enrolled in Health-related Schools

Because of the nature of their work, students engaged in health professional training programs could have a higher risk of contracting Rubeola, Rubella, Mumps, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Varicella (Chickenpox), Tuberculosis, and Hepatitis B. Therefore, all UAB students in the Joint Health Sciences programs and in the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Optometry, Public Health, Nursing, and Health Professions are required to be immunized against Tetanus, Diphtheria, Varicella (Chickenpox), Mumps, Rubeola (Red Measles), Rubella (German Measles), and Hepatitis B. In lieu of being re-immunized, such individuals may present proof of having had such immunizations. Proof must be either official medical documentation or certificates of immunization or positive titer. If students do not have such proof or have not been immunized, they must begin the immunization process against these diseases prior to being admitted, attending, enrolling, or participating in UAB academic, research, or clinical programs and activities.

Students completing their Hepatitis B series of vaccines must obtain Hepatitis B titer 1 to 2 months after their third vaccine to see if additional boosters are necessary. If the titer is negative, students will be given the option either to repeat the entire Hepatitis B series or to take 1 to 2 Hepatitis B “booster” shots to try to attain a positive titer. Students who have completed their Hepatitis B vaccine series prior to matriculation are required to take a Hepatitis B titer prior to participating in a clinical environment to see if additional boosters or labs are required.

All students enrolled in health-related schools must have had a Tuberculin skin test with negative results (or appropriate treatment if positive) within three months prior to matriculation. Students participating in clinical environments with patients will be required to obtain a two-step Tuberculin skin test before starting clinical rotations and are mandated to renew their Tuberculin one-step skin test once per year.

General

The UAB Student Health Service will provide such immunizations and titer testing on a fee-for-service basis for any student who needs to meet his or her UAB immunization or titer requirements. Students may choose to fulfill these requirements at the Jefferson County Health Department or with a private physician.

Individual UAB schools may impose additional immunization requirements as needed for their students.

Exceptions

Exceptions to this policy will be made only for those students who can document medical or religious contraindications to the vaccine. Such documentation must be submitted to the appropriate admissions or registration office as indicated in the procedures to implement this policy.

Implementation

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The Provost (in conjunction with the Vice President/Dean, School of Medicine and the Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Services and University Registrar) is responsible for procedures to implement this policy for students in the Joint Health Sciences programs and in the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Optometry, Public Health, Nursing, and Health Professions.

The Vice President for Student Affairs (in conjunction with the Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Services and University Registrar and the Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management) is responsible for procedures to implement this policy for all other UAB students.

The Office of International Scholar and Student Services is responsible for procedures to implement this policy for international students and international scholars.