



**DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES  
POLICY**

<b>POLICY NAME:</b>	<b>STUDENT HEALTH AND IMMUNIZATION</b>
<b>RESPONSIBILITY For Development/Review:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> University Admin <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dept. Chair/ Program Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Academic Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clinical Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Faculty <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administrative Secretary
<b>APPROVED BY:</b>	Faculty
<b>DATE CREATED:</b>	5/17/2013
<b>DATE REVISED:</b>	2/14/2024
<b>REVIEWED: Annually</b>	2/26/2025
<b>SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTS:</b>	<p>CDC guidelines: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/imz-schedules/resources.html">https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/imz-schedules/resources.html</a>  <a href="http://www.health.pa.gov">www.health.pa.gov</a></p> <p>Cohen Health - Student Health Record Form  DPAS Authorization to Release Immunization Record and Tuberculosis Screening Results to the Program of Study form  DPAS Student and Policy Handbooks</p>
<b>OCCURANCE:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yearly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> As Needed
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	To define student health, immunization and insurance requirements, policy and procedures prior to enrollment and throughout the course of study.
<b>POLICY:</b>	<p>All students must provide proof of health insurance prior to matriculation. Each student’s personal health insurance policy must remain active throughout their participation in the program.</p> <p>Students are financially responsible for the cost of all health care services they may require while enrolled in the program, including any health care services required as a result of their participation in scheduled program activities (e.g. TB testing, immunizations, treatment of injuries, pathogen exposure evaluation and treatment).</p> <p>The Student Health Record, which includes the Pre-Admission Immunization Record and the Mercyhurst University Health Screening Form, must be completed prior to matriculation. These forms are necessary for health center access as a patient if an emergency arises and for use in providing clinical affiliates with written proof of immunizations and wellness. Students are financially responsible for this process and it will need to be repeated annually or more frequently as required by clinical sites. The Cohen Health Center staff will maintain the Student Health Record and ensure that the student meets the defined requirements. Students who are not in compliance with having a completed Student Health Record may be prohibited from matriculating into the program. Vaccination exemptions may be requested from the Cohen Health Center for medical, religious, or other reasons. Vaccination exemption waivers can be found on the Student Hub, under Services, then Cohen Health Center, then Mandatory Health Forms. If a student wishes to waive a vaccine for medical reasons, a signed statement from a medical professional must be provided.</p>

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students to complete clinical rotations without proof of vaccination and will not accept exemptions. Failure to comply with this requirement for clinical affiliates may preclude the student from participating in or completing the clinical requirements of this program which may cause a delay in their education and progression in the program of study, delay in graduation, and/or inability to complete the program.

To be in compliance, students must have a completed:

- Mercyhurst University Health Screening Form prior to matriculation and updated prior to the clinical year of the program. This includes:
  - An annual health screening
  - An annual tuberculosis screening in the form of a 2-step tuberculosis skin test (TST), Quantiferon testing (if applicable) or a chest x-ray (if applicable) performed in accordance with CDC guidelines. Additionally, certain clinical sites may have more stringent requirements. In the event TB testing is positive a documented evaluation, including chest x-ray and treatment if indicated, must be completed in accordance with current CDC guidelines. Failure to comply with this requirement for clinical affiliates may preclude the student from participating in or completing the clinical requirements of this program which may cause a delay in their education and progression in the program of study, delay in graduation, and/or inability to complete the program.
- Pre-Admission Immunization Record prior to matriculation and updated prior to the clinical year of the program. This includes:
  - DPAS students are required to have current immunization status throughout enrollment in the program as recommended for healthcare personnel by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Please refer to the following link for the most current CDC guidelines:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/imz-schedules/resources.html>
  - Immunization verification and laboratory verification of serologic testing for immunity (antibody test results) must be provided for all listed conditions recommended by the CDC for health care personnel. All non-converters may require additional immunizations with follow up titers per the CDC recommendations, to include but may not be limited to the following:
    1. Hepatitis B: Documentation of the three-dose immunization against Hepatitis B. This series must be started prior to matriculation and must be kept on schedule. Following completion of the Hepatitis B series, a positive (immune) titer must be completed.
    2. Mumps: Records of titer validating current immunity **and** a 2-dose vaccine series being administered on schedule.
    3. Rubeola (measles): Records of titer validating current immunity **and** a 2-dose vaccine series being administered on schedule.
    4. Rubella: Records of titer validating current immunity **and** a 2-dose MMR immunization.

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	<p>5. Varicella: Records of titer validating current immunity <b>and</b> a 2-dose vaccine series being administered on schedule. Note: History of previous infection is not sufficient evidence of immunity.</p> <p>6. Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis: Documentation of a completed primary series with Tdap booster within the last ten years.</p> <p>7. Polio: Primary series in childhood meets requirements; three primary series schedules are acceptable. Refer to ACIP for details.</p> <p>8. Influenza: Documentation of influenza vaccination. While enrolled in the program students will be required to obtain annual influenza vaccination.</p> <p>9. COVID-19: Documentation per CDC guidelines.</p> <p>10. Meningococcal vaccine: Documentation per CDC guidelines.</p> <p>The student health record is a confidential document that is not accessible to the department program faculty, department chair/program director, medical director, or program staff. Per accreditation standards, the only information that will be accessible in the department student file is the immunization record and tuberculosis screening results. Students must give written permission for their immunization record and tuberculosis screening results to be shared with the program by signing the Authorization to Release Immunization Record and Tuberculosis Screening to the Program of Study and the Authorization to Release Information to clinical sites. Students also must give written permission for their health information to be shared by the Cohen Health Center, with clinical sites, by signing the release in the DPAS Student Health Record.</p> <p>Program faculty, department chair/program director, medical director, or program staff will not participate as health care providers for students enrolled in the program, except in cases of emergency, and will not have access to any student health information other than that defined in this policy.</p>
<b>OTHER NOTES:</b>	