TTUHSC El Paso Health Surveillance Program

Students

I. Tuberculosis Surveillance


A. Cost Responsibilities

1. The cost of all pre-matriculation requirements will be borne by the student.
2. Costs for annual TB skin tests will be covered through the Occupational Health (OH) Department.
3. If a student converts to a positive TB skin test (TST) with an annual evaluation, the rule out (r/o) Chest X-Ray will be performed and covered through the OH Department.
4. If students are required by affiliates to have TB testing, immunizations, or titer data beyond the recommended CDC guidelines, the student will bear the cost of meeting those requirements.

B. Record Maintenance

Pre-Matriculation and Annual records shall be received, validated, and maintained by the OH Department.

II. Immunizations

Immunization requirements are based on regulations, guidelines and recommendations available as of November, 2013 from the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP). Details of implementation are included in the Infection Control Screening: new employee, student, visitor, Ambulatory Clinic Policy and Procedure EP 7.1.

A. Pre-Matriculation Requirements

All TTUHSC El Paso students (undergraduate and graduate), with the exception of students identified as having no direct patient care, must have received required immunizations with documentation submitted prior to matriculation. All immunizations must be in compliance with the “Healthcare Personnel Vaccination Recommendations”.

ATTACHMENT A
HSCEP OP 75.11
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July 7, 2017
Rev. February 11, 2022
B. Annual Requirements

1. Annual Flu vaccine will be offered to all TTUHSC El Paso students.

2. Completion of Hepatitis B series will be offered to all students who matriculated with at least one dose as scheduled.

C. Cost Responsibilities

1. The cost of all pre-matriculation immunizations/testing will be borne by the student.

2. Cost for completing the Hepatitis B series will be borne by the student.

3. Cost of Flu vaccine will be covered through the OH Department.

4. If students are required by affiliates to have TB testing, immunizations, or titer data beyond the recommended CDC guidelines, the student will bear the cost of those requirements.

D. Immunization Exclusion for Reasons of Conscience

1. Texas Education Code 51.933 permits students to claim an exclusion from vaccine requirements for reasons of conscience, including religious belief. However, claiming an exemption may prevent a student granted an exclusion from fulfilling course requirements and thus render them unable to progress or to graduate (see section II, paragraph D.4 below).

2. Students who are less than 22 years of age on the first day of their first semester at TTUHSC El Paso can claim exclusion from the meningococcal vaccine for reasons of conscience, including religious belief. Students who are 22 years of age or older by the first day of their first semester at TTUHSC El Paso are not required to receive the meningococcal vaccine.

3. To obtain exclusion from required immunization for reasons of conscience, the student must request an affidavit from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, have it completed by a physician stating that the student (patient) has been advised of the consequences of not receiving the required immunization(s), and submit it to the OH Department.

4. Students who are granted exclusions from required vaccinations for reasons of conscience, including religious belief, may not participate in coursework that involves direct patient contact with potential exposure to blood and bodily fluids in educational, medical, or dental care facilities or direct contact with animals or animal remains. This may prevent a student granted an exclusion from fulfilling course requirements and thus render them unable to progress academically or to graduate, because TTUHSC El Paso dental, medical, and nursing course work may require students to be exposed to the above-mentioned exposures. Additionally, it is probable that affiliated entities where students fulfill the clerkships and clinical rounds component of their studies may require a complete vaccination status before students are allowed see patients.

E. Vaccine Requirements for Healthcare Workers

1. The CDC has a list of vaccine recommendations for health workers. Each state enforces vaccine requirements for health workers, via state law.
2. In Texas, Per 25 Texas Administrative Code Sec. 1.702 requires healthcare facilities to develop, implement, and enforce policy that protects patients from vaccine-preventable diseases based on the level of exposure risk to viruses and bacteria.

3. Hospital and clinic personnel possibly including students taking healthcare coursework, may claim vaccine exceptions for reasons of conscience, including religious belief, if the healthcare facility has an exception policy and procedure.

F. **Serological Confirmation of Immunity**

Immunization requirements are not applicable for students who can provide proof of immunity from a laboratory. However, students may not participate in coursework that involves direct patient contact with potential exposure to blood and bodily fluids in educational, medical, or dental care facilities or direct contact with animals or animal remains until the proper laboratory documentation has been submitted and accepted by TTUHSC El Paso.

G. **COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement at Healthcare Facilities**

1. Healthcare facilities that provide medical care for patients covered under Medicare and Medicaid must ensure that their staff, unless exempt for medical or religious reasons, are vaccinated against COVID-19 (see Federal Register, volume 86, number 12, page 61555; November 5, 2021).

2. TTUHSC El Paso students participating in clerkships and clinical rounds at healthcare facilities that provide medical care to patients covered under Medicare and Medicaid should consult with the healthcare facility regarding the specific policies pertaining to the COVID-19 vaccine mandate and exemptions.

H. **Record Maintenance**

Pre-Matriculation and Annual records shall be received, validated, and maintained by the OH Department.

III. **Exposure Management**

Institutional management of exposure to: (1) blood-borne pathogens, (2) body fluids and, (3) other miscellaneous exposures are based on regulations, guidelines and recommendations available as of June, 2012 from the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Details of implementation are included in the Needle-stick injuries/ exposures to body fluids, care and follow-up, Ambulatory Clinic Policy and Procedure EP 7.3.

A. **Pre- Exposure Requirements**

1. All students in programs with direct patient care or animal contact, must have either received their Hepatitis B series or be in the process of completing the Hepatitis B series prior to clinical rotations and is the responsibility of the student.

2. All students must have documentation of having received a one-time adult dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis).

B. **Post- Exposure Requirements**
1. **Reporting**

   Students who have a known or suspected exposure to an infectious disease during the performance of an academic responsibility shall report that incident promptly to their immediate supervisor, fill out a “Non-Employee Injury/Incident Report”, and seek immediate evaluation/care. Student is responsible to report and coordinate all follow-up with the OH Department.

2. **Exposure Investigation and Management**

   Exposure investigation and appropriate management (if indicated) including, medication administration, vaccination, blood work, and counseling shall be provided to students based on orders and recommendations from the OH Department or treating Physician.

C. **Cost Responsibility**

   Costs for exposure investigation and prophylaxis post exposure treatment (PPE) will be billed through the student’s insurance and the Screening and Immunization Fee will cover any remaining charges.

D. **Record Maintenance**

   All records concerning student exposure will be maintained by the OH Department.