

Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Immunization Information

Immunization and Testing Requirements

Please have your healthcare professional review your immunization record/status.

Due to the nature of the learning experience and assignments, all PTA students must provide documentation of current immunization status for vaccine-preventable diseases and other testing.

Immunizations and testing requirements are based upon recommendations and/or requirements from the following agencies and organizations:

- Clinical education sites
- Texas Department of State Health Services
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- Texas Administrative Code Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 97, Subchapter B, Rule 97.64.

The Texas Administrative Code mandates certain immunizations prior to patient contact. Students who fail to provide appropriate documentation will not be permitted to register for clinical/practicum clinical education and must withdraw from the program.

Documentation must include the healthcare provider's signature and the date or dates given.

Acceptable Documentation

Appropriate documentation includes one of the following methods in most cases:

- A copy of official Immunization Record or healthcare provider immunization forms.
- A copy of laboratory (serological) evidence of immunity (titers)

Some clinical agencies may require further documentation/testing or have additional requirements.

Required Immunizations

- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)
- Tetanus/Diphtheria (Td)
- Hepatitis B series

Recommended Vaccines

- Varicella
- Meningococcal

Required Test

- Tuberculosis (TB) skin test required annually
- If a chest x-ray is required, the student must provide documentation of a negative chest x-ray completed within the past three years.

Requirements for Students Born on or After January 1, 1957

Students must provide the following before patient contact:

Measles

- Two doses of measles vaccine given on or after January 1, 1968, with at least 30 days between doses; or

- Serologic proof of immunity

Mumps

- One dose of mumps vaccine; or
- Serologic proof of immunity
- Two doses are required for healthcare workers

Rubella

- One dose of rubella vaccine; or
- Serologic proof of immunity

Hepatitis B

- Complete Hepatitis B vaccine series before the start of direct patient care; or
- Serologic confirmation of immunity to Hepatitis B virus

Requirements for Students Born Before January 1, 1957

Before patient contact, students must provide the following:

Measles

- One dose of measles vaccine; or
- Serologic proof of immunity

Mumps

- One dose of mumps vaccine; or
- Serologic proof of immunity

Rubella

- One dose of rubella vaccine; or
- Serologic proof of immunity

Hepatitis B

- Complete Hepatitis B vaccine series before the start of direct patient care; or
- Serologic confirmation of immunity to Hepatitis B virus

For All Students

Varicella

- Students must provide one of the following:
- Two doses of varicella vaccine, unless the first dose was received before age 13
- Physician-validated history of varicella disease (chickenpox)
- Proof of varicella immunity

A statement from a physician, parent or guardian, or school nurse must support a reported history of varicella disease.

Tetanus/Diphtheria (Td)

Students must provide documentation of a Td vaccine that remains current within 10 years through the anticipated completion of clinical training.

Exclusions From Compliance

Exclusions may be allowed on an individual basis for medical contraindications, reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, and active duty with the armed forces of the United States (Texas Administrative Code). Requests for exclusion will be handled on an individual basis and must be presented in a written request prior to the due date for Personal Student Portfolio.