Health Services Immunization Policy for New Full-Time Students in a TBR Institution

Effective Date: January 1, 2014
I. Purpose

To provide guidance on required immunizations for certain diseases or exemptions from such requirements.

II. Review

This policy will be reviewed every four years or when changes are mandated by the TBR and/or Tennessee Department of Health, whichever is earlier, by the Director of Health Service with recommendations for revision presented to Vice-President of Student Affairs.

III. Policy

A. Meningitis vaccination

1. Unless exempted as described in Section 3 in this section, a new incoming student (defined as a student through the age of 21 who enrolls in a course or courses offered for college credit at TTU for the first time, regardless of the level at which the student is matriculating) who lives in on-campus housing shall provide proof of adequate immunization (defined for the purposes of this section as vaccination on or after a student’s 16th birthday) against meningococcal disease as recommended for adults in the current advisory committee on immunizations practices “Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule” published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found here: http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/adult/adultschedule.pdf.

2. No new incoming student will be allowed to move into campus housing without providing proof of adequate immunization.

3. A student by be exempted from the meningitis immunization requirement only under the following circumstances:

a. Where a physician licensed by the board of medical examiners, the board of osteopathic examiners or a health department certifies in writing that a particular vaccine is contraindicated for one of the following reasons:

i. The student meets the criteria for contraindication set forth in the manufacturer’s vaccine package insert; or
ii. The student meets the criteria for contraindication published by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) or the Advisory committee on Immunization practices (ACIP); or

iii. In the best professional judgment of the physician, based upon the student’s medical condition and history, the risk of harm from the vaccine outweighs the potential benefit.

b. Where a parent or guardian, or, in the case of an adult student, the student, provides the school with a written statement, affirmed under the penalties of perjury, that the vaccination conflicts with the religious tenets and practices of the parent or guardian or, in the case of an adult student, the student.

4. A student who has provided the proper documentation for a waiver of immunization, as described above, may live in campus housing. A student who does not have a properly documented waiver may not use refusal or failure of immunization in order to avoid the residency requirement. If a student who would otherwise be required to live on campus does not provide proof of immunization or waiver, that student will not be allowed to attend Tennessee Tech.

B. Varicella (chickenpox) vaccination or immunity

Unless exempted as described in Section D below, a new full time student (as defined by the Tennessee Department of Health Rule 1200-14-01-.29(16(d)) born after January 1, 1980, must present proof of adequate immunization against varicella (chickenpox). For the purpose of this section, adequate immunization is defined as

1. Documentation of two doses of varicella-containing vaccine, administered at least 28 days apart; or

2. Laboratory evidence of immunity; or

3. A history verified by a physician, advanced practice nurse, physician’s assistant or health department of varicella disease

C. Measles, Mumps and Rubella immunity

Unless exempted as described in Section D below, a new full time student (as defined by the Tennessee Department of Health Rule 1200-14-01-.29(16(d)) born on or after January 1, 1957, must present proof of adequate immunization against measles, mumps and rubella. For the purpose of this section, “adequate immunization” is defined as
1. Documentation of 2 doses of vaccine against measles, mumps, and rubella administered at least 28 days apart and no earlier than 4 days before the first birthday, or

2. Laboratory evidence of immunity.

3. Students who need 2 doses of vaccine but cannot get both doses before classes start may enroll with documentation of one dose of each required vaccine, but must get second dose of vaccine after the 28 day interval and provide documentation to the Health Services office of having received a second dose or have a hold placed on their student account.

D. Exemptions

1. Full time distance learning students are exempt from the requirements to shown adequate immunization from varicella, measles, mumps and rubella.

2. Other students may be exempted only under the following circumstances:

   a. Where a physician licensed by the board of medical examiners, the board of osteopathic examiners or a health department certifies in writing that a particular vaccine is contraindicated for one of the following reasons:

      i. The student meets the criteria for contraindication set forth in the manufacturer’s vaccine package insert; or

      ii. The student meets the criteria for contraindication published by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) or the Advisory committee on Immunization practices (ACIP); or

      iii. In the best professional judgment of the physician, based upon the student’s medical condition and history, the risk of harm from the vaccine outweighs the potential benefit.

3. Where a parent or guardian, or, in the case of an adult student, the student, provides the school with a written statement, affirmed under the penalties of perjury, that the vaccination conflicts with the religious tenets and practices of the parent or guardian or, in the case of an adult student, the student.

E. Certification of Freedom from Tuberculosis

All foreign non-immigrant students applying for admission pursuant to a student visa shall submit within thirty (30) days from the first day of classes a certificate from a licensed physician or other qualified medical authority verifying freedom from tuberculosis. Failure to submit such certification shall result in denial of admission or continued enrollment. In the event that a
student has tuberculosis or has potential tuberculosis requiring medical treatment, continued enrollment will be conditioned upon the determination by a licensed physician that further enrollment is not a risk to others and upon the student’s compliance with any prescribed medical treatment program.

IV. Interpretation

The President or his designee has the final authority to interpret the terms of this policy.

V. Citation of authority for policy

TSA 49-7-124; Department of Health Rule 1200-14-01-.29 (16) & (18); Tennessee Higher Education Commission Rule 1540-01-09; TBR Policy 2:03:00:00