

**Berkshire Community College
Practical Nursing Program
Health and Immunization Policy**

Immunization Requirements: Students entering the Practical Nursing program are required to follow the immunization policy for BCC health students. Students must submit proof of compliance with immunizations by the August 10, 2020 or prior to the beginning of the semester student is entering. The college immunization policy can be found in the BCC College Catalog. (www.berkshirecc.edu/catalog)

Please note: The Hep B series may take up to six months to complete. Students should plan accordingly. Immunization information may be shared with the Director of Nursing and Program Administrative Assistant, Nursing Data Analyst and contracted agencies to allow for clinical experiences.

MANDATORY HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Required Immunization for Hepatitis B			
Hepatitis B	3 doses of the Engerix-B or Recombivax--HB formulations of the hepatitis B vaccine on a 0, 1, and 6 month schedule, OR 2 doses of the Heplisav-B formulation on a 0 and 1 month schedule on or after 18 years of age are acceptable.	OR	Laboratory evidence of immunity (titer)
Tdap	1 dose; and history of a DTaP primary series or age appropriate catch-up vaccination. Tdap given at ≥7 years may be counted, but a dose at age 11-12 is recommended if Tdap was given earlier as part of a catch- up schedule.		
MMR	2 doses; first dose must be given on or after the 1 st birthday and the 2 nd dose must be given ≥28 days after dose 1	OR	Laboratory evidence of immunity (titer) *Antibody blood tests (titers) must include laboratory report as proof of immunity.
Varicella	Medical proof of the disease *A reliable history of chickenpox includes a diagnosis of chickenpox, or interpretation of parent/guardian description of chickenpox, by a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant or designee.	OR	Laboratory evidence of immunity (titer)

Tb (must be kept current throughout the program)	Tuberculosis negative test within the year. TB test can include: PPD, T-spot, or Quantiferon	OR	Negative chest x-ray within the last five years
Flu Shot	Flu shot or declination form submitted by date in fall to be announced. Some clinical agencies do not accept declination of Flu vaccine.		
Meningococcal	1 dose; 1 dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) required for all full-time students 21 years of age or younger. The dose of MenACWY vaccine must have been received on or after the student's 16 th birthday. Doses received at younger ages do not count towards this requirement. Students may decline MenACWY vaccine after they have read and signed the <u>MDPH Meningococcal Information and Waiver Form</u> provided by their institution. Meningococcal B vaccine is not required and does not meet this requirement.		
<p>**Nursing students must comply with the immunization requirements of their clinical site.</p> <p>Medical exemptions (statement from a physician stating that a vaccine is medically contraindicated for a student) and religious exemptions (statement from a student or parent/guardian, if the student is <18 years of age, stating that a vaccine is against sincerely held religious beliefs) should be renewed annually at the start of the school year.</p>			

(BCC Immunization policy developed according to MDPH Immunization Program 2019-2020 School Year and per requirements of clinical sites)

Waiver

If a student is unable to receive an immunization due to medical reasons, they must discuss a medical waiver with the Director of Nursing and provide a doctor's notice. If a medical waiver is granted, documentation from the student's physician must be filed in the Nursing Immunization and Medical Records Office. It is also highly recommended that these students have blood testing done to show possible immunity. Both medical exemptions and declinations must be renewed on the appropriate forms annually. If a student cannot complete clinical, then he/she cannot complete the course.

Drug Screening

Please be advised that students enrolled in certain programs which require clinical or fieldwork study may be required by the placement affiliate agency to undergo and pass a drug screening analysis in order to be eligible. Students who either fail to pass, or refuse to submit to a drug screening analysis will be deemed ineligible for clinical placement, which will affect their status in the program.

Verification of Student Health History and Physical Exam

In addition to the Mandatory Immunization Requirements, all students enrolled in the nursing program are required to have Verification of Student Health History and Physical Exam report completed by their health care provider by August 10th or prior to the beginning of the semester student is entering.

Failure to Comply

A student will not be allowed to participate in the clinical experience without all health requirements fully complete.

Submit requirements to the Nursing Immunization and Medical Records Office located in the Hawthorne building office #310. Berkshire Community College Main Campus ` Telephone: 413-236-4609 Fax: 413-499-4576

Revised: Revised: PN Faculty Committee, 4/3/19, 8/6/19, reviewed: 11/6/19; revised 1/17/20