

## **2.3 Immunizations and Documentation Requirements: Undergraduate** (Revised 2/7/2023)

Per [Texas Health and Human Services](#) (In accordance with [Texas Education Code Sec. 51.933](#)), proof of the following immunizations is required for all students enrolled in health-related college courses which involve direct patient contact with potential exposure to blood or bodily fluids. Options for providing proof of immunity to meet UT Tyler School of Nursing requirements are based on Texas Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Immunization Action Coalition standards.

Vaccines required for enrollment in health-related courses must be completed before students begin their first nursing semester.

All students must be compliant with all annual requirements in the Castle Branch system before attending clinical. Failure to produce documentation of met requirements will result in missed clinical day(s). Students have the right to decline immunizations or insurance but may be denied clinical placement in specific facilities, and faculty cannot ensure alternate placement.

### **2.3.1 Immunizations**

#### **2.3.1.1 Immunizations required prior to enrolling in classes for the first semester of nursing school:**

Immunizations are typically completed as part of childhood immunization requirements. Although being current on childhood immunizations will meet most requirements, please note there are additional requirements for some vaccines such as Hepatitis B that may take up to 7 months to be compliant (or up to 14 months if no proof of prior vaccination). Students are encouraged to obtain vaccine records from their parents or the clinic that administered the vaccines.

#### **Hepatitis B Series:**

**Ultimately, proof of positive titer OR provider documentation of “non-converter” is required.**

#### **If you have proof of prior completion of the vaccination series:**

- Complete a serological test of immunity (also known as a titer) if you do not already have proof of a previous positive titer.
  - At least one month after the last dose in the vaccine series must have passed before drawing the initial titer.
  - Per [Immunization Action Coalition](#), once a positive titer is obtained, there is no need to repeat the titer unless the individual is immunocompromised.
- If positive antibody titer:

- Immunity is confirmed. Submission of proof of positive titer required. Recommend submitting proof of completion of vaccine series and positive titer results.
- If negative antibody titer, choose one of the below vaccine options.
  - Complete the **two-dose series** of HepHisav-B (doses one month apart). Then repeat the titer one month after the final (second) dose. (Total time approximately two months). Note: HepHisav-B is an “adjuvanted” vaccine by Dynavax and may display as Dynavax or Adjuvanted on vaccine records.
    - i. Submit proof of one of the following:
      - a) Positive titer
      - b) Provider statement of “non-responder” if titer negative
    - ii. If positive titer, recommend also including below documentation. If “non-responder” required to include below documentation to validate completion of both vaccine series and appropriate timing of final titer.
      - a) Completion of “initial” vaccine series, negative titer (at least one month after the last dose of initial series), completion of “booster” vaccine(s) (one dose allowed if positive titer after one dose, completion of series required if did not check titer after first booster vaccine or if titer after first booster vaccine negative), and results of final titer (1 month after the last vaccine received).
    - iii. Note: if you are a non-responder, see [recommendations from Immunization Action Coalition](#) regarding risks associated with being a non-responder
  - Complete the **3-dose series** of Engerix-B or Recombivax HB (doses at 0, 1 & 6 months). Then repeat the titer one month after the final (second) dose. (Total time approximately seven months)
    - i. Submit proof of one of the following:
      - a) Positive titer
      - b) Provider statement of “non-responder” if titer negative
    - ii. If positive titer, recommend also including below documentation. If “non-responder” required to include below documentation to validate completion of both vaccine series and appropriate timing of final titer.
      - a) Completion of “initial” vaccine series, negative titer (at least one month after the last dose of initial series), completion of “booster” vaccine(s) (1 dose allowed if positive titer after one dose, completion of series required if did not check titer after first booster vaccine or if titer after first booster vaccine negative), and results of final titer (1 month after the last vaccine received).
    - iii. Note: if you are a non-responder, see [recommendations from Immunization Action Coalition](#) regarding risks associated with being a non-responder
- **Note:** for either 2 or 3 dose series listed above, students may choose to draw a titer one month after the first dose. If the titer is positive, the student is not required to complete the series (if negative, must complete the series).

- i. Proof of positive titer required. Recommend submitting proof of completion of “initial” vaccine series, negative titer, completion of single “booster” dose of vaccine, and positive antibody titer.

**For a table view of standards, see Appendix A**

**If there is no proof of prior vaccination series:**

First, complete the vaccine series. Options include:

- **2-dose series** of Hepilisav-B (doses one month apart)
- **3-dose series** of Engerix-B or Recombivax HB (doses at 0, 1 & 6 months)

Then follow the above guidelines for those who have proof of vaccine series completion.

Note: this process may require completion of the entire vaccine series twice along with titer levels which can take up to 14 months to complete depending on the vaccine series option selected.

### **COVID-19 Series:**

Students must abide by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) mandate requiring completion of the COVID-19 vaccine series or receive a medical or religious exemption if appropriate (see policy section 2.3.1.3 for exemption details).

Completion of the COVID-19 vaccine series is defined as one (1) dose of the Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine or two (2) doses of the Moderna, Pfizer, or Novavax vaccine.

Starting in Summer 2022, all students must have completed the series prior to enrolling in nursing courses.

### **Influenza:**

For students **starting nursing school in the Spring semester**, submit documentation of an influenza vaccine administered during the current flu season. The renewal date will be set to 11/01 of the following flu season.

For students **starting nursing school in the Summer or Fall semesters:**

Summer and Fall semesters start before flu season starts. There are no influenza vaccination requirements to enroll in courses for Summer or Fall. Note: Castle Branch may still have an option to upload proof of vaccination. Wait until receiving the vaccine for the upcoming flu season to upload.

Once flu season begins in the Fall semester, submit documentation of an influenza vaccine administered during the current flu season before November 1. The renewal date will be set to 11/01 of the following flu season.

### **Measles, Mumps, & Rubella (MMR):**

Submission of proof of either prior completion of vaccine series (2 doses) **OR** positive titer (for all three components) is required. A titer is recommended only if there is no proof of ever having completed the vaccine series.

If there is no proof of having prior completion of the vaccine series and titer results for any of the three components (measles, mumps, or rubella) are negative, completion of the vaccine series (2 doses with at least 28 days between doses) is required. No subsequent titer is needed. Submit documentation of completion of the vaccine series.

### **Tetanus, Diphtheria, & Pertussis (Tdap):**

Submit documentation of at least one Tdap vaccine and proof of tetanus-containing vaccine (Tdap or Td) within the past ten years. The renewal date will be set 10 years from the administered date.

### **Varicella (Chicken Pox):**

Submission of proof of prior completion of vaccine series (2 doses) **OR** diagnosis/verification of a history of varicella or herpes zoster (shingles) by a healthcare provider **OR** positive titer required. A titer is recommended only if there is no proof of ever having completed the vaccine series.

If there is no proof of having prior completion of vaccine series or history of varicella or shingles, and titer results are negative, completion of the vaccine series (2 doses with at least 28 days between doses) is required. No subsequent titer is needed. Submit documentation of completion of the vaccine series.

### **Polio (optional):**

Although the polio vaccine is not required for any student, nursing students are encouraged to ascertain that they are immune to poliomyelitis.

#### ***2.3.1.2 Immunizations Required Annually Throughout the Nursing Program***

### **Influenza:**

Documentation of an influenza vaccine administered during the current flu season is required prior to November 1 each year.

If, for any reason, a student was not in clinical classes in the Fall and did not take the flu vaccine, it is required prior to starting the Spring semester.

### **2.3.1.3 Exemptions**

Exemptions may be allowable on an individual basis for medical contraindications and religious conflicts. The exemption request forms will be maintained in the Castle Branch document library. Students have the right to decline immunizations but may be denied clinical placement in specific facilities, and faculty cannot ensure alternate placement. Exemptions may be time-limited based on circumstances.

- Forms for Exception to Immunization Requirements for Clinical Placement are located on the UT Tyler School of Nursing policy website.  
[https://www.uttyler.edu/nursing/college/student\\_guide\\_and\\_policies.php](https://www.uttyler.edu/nursing/college/student_guide_and_policies.php) Follow the instructions on the form to complete.
  - Section 2.3.1.3.1 for NON-COVID related vaccines exemption form (same form for medical or religious exemption request)
  - Section 2.3.1.3.2 for Medical exemption form for COVID-19 vaccine
  - Section 2.3.1.3.3 for Religious exemption form for COVID-19 vaccine
    - An explanation of how the COVID-19 vaccine interferes with the free exercise of your religious rights must be written in your own words. Letters from a religious leader are not required.

Castle Branch is not authorized to approve exemption requests. The student is expected to notify the BSN Clinical Experience Liaison when an exemption request has been uploaded to Castle Branch. The exemption request will go through the UT Tyler School of Nursing for approval and status updated in Castle Branch if approved.

Requirements for polio, measles, rubella, mumps, and hepatitis B vaccine are waived during pregnancy.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/should-not-vacc.html> Complete the medical exemption forms as appropriate if not already fully vaccinated. This exemption is time-limited, and the student is expected to complete any missing vaccines after delivery before returning to clinicals.

- Tdap and pregnancy: If the student has not had a Tdap vaccine within the last ten years, it is best to delay the administration of Tdap until the second trimester. There are no contraindications to Tdap during pregnancy after the first trimester. Complete the medical exemption form if appropriate. This exemption will be time-limited, and the student is expected to complete the Tdap requirement after the first trimester before returning to clinicals.

## **2.3.2 Tuberculosis Screening**

### **Tuberculosis (TB) Screening:**

#### **2.3.2.1 Non-International Students**

*Tuberculosis Screening: It is recommended that students obtain requirements for TB screening through the University Health Clinic, 3310 Patriot Drive, Tyler, Tx 75701; Office Hours: M-F 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 903.939.7870*

*Documentation of a result is required. The frequency and type of tuberculin screening depend upon if this is initial testing and the duration of time between tests:*

### **Required prior to enrolling in classes for the first semester of nursing school**

Proof of negative PPD Mantoux tuberculin skin test (TST) OR negative blood assay (IGRA) [QuantiFERON (QFT) or T-Spot] based on the below guidelines.

- *Students receiving their first tuberculin screening or having their last tuberculin skin test (TST) more than one year ago select one of the following:*
  - *proof of a 2-step TST (2 TST tests completed preferably 1-3 weeks apart, or at least one week apart and no more than 12 months apart)*
  - *single blood assay (IGRA) test*
- *Students who have received the BCG vaccine: a single blood assay (IGRA)*
- *Students with a TST within the previous 12 months: a single TST*

***If results are positive, see the “Annual documentation required for positive results” below.***

### **Annual documentation required:**

*Negative tuberculin skin test (TST) or negative blood assay (IGRA): [QuantiFERON (QFT) or T-Spot. For annual documentation required for individuals with a history of positive results, see the “For positive results” section below.*

### **For positive results:**

*Students who have a positive TST may be requested to follow up with an IGRA blood test to verify. Students who have a positive IGRA or prior treatment for TB are recommended to follow up with the University Health Clinic for referral (location and phone above).*

*The following is required:*

- *Proof of a negative chest x-ray is required (repeated yearly x-rays are not required unless recommended by a healthcare provider).*
- *The student must be referred to a health department for further evaluation.*
- *Treatment for latent TB infection (LTBI) should be considered in accordance with CDC guidelines.*
- *Documentation of treatment (beginning and completion) will be scanned into the designated immunization tracking system for reference.*
- *Students will be followed by the school’s staff and/or administrators regarding requirements yearly after the student is admitted.*
- ***Annual documentation required:*** *Completed TB symptom screening form signed by a health care provider. <https://www.uttyler.edu/nursing/files/tb-employee-questionnaire-ut-tyler.pdf>*

***Students with potential active TB should wear a mask and receive medical care immediately, according to the health department or the student's health care provider.***

**For a flowchart of standards, see Appendix B**

### **2.3.2.2 International Students**

*International Student Services (ISS) supports all F and J visa international students who attend UT Tyler for academic study) **and** students that originate from a country that is defined as high burden for TB.*

*Does the TB screen hold apply to me? - <https://www.uttyler.edu/oip/tb-clearance.php>*

### **2.3.3 Liability Insurance**

**Professional liability insurance** fees will be added to the bill at registration.

### **2.3.4 Licensure**

**Licensure Verification for current registered nurses (RNs):** For all licensed nurses, current licensure in the state will be verified before admission is considered. Please submit a copy of the verification of licensure from the state Board of Nursing website showing the license number AND expiration date.

The renewal date will be set based on the expiration of licensure.

Any licensed nurse with a current license restriction or who receives a subsequent restriction after admission to the SON must contact the appropriate program director. Progression in the program will be contingent upon the nature of the restriction.

### **2.3.5 BLS/CPR**

Submit your current Basic Life Support (BLS) or Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification. **Must be either an American Heart Association (AHA) or American Red Cross BLS/CPR course designed for healthcare providers.** Heart Saver, Lifeguard, or other non-healthcare provider level BLS courses are NOT accepted. Courses from other companies that use AHA guidelines but do not result in either an AHA or American Red Cross card are NOT accepted.

A copy of both the front and back of your card (including your signature) or e-card containing the name of the course and your name is required. The renewal date will be set based on the expiration of certification.

### **2.3.6 Health Insurance**

Submit a copy of your current health insurance card OR proof of coverage.

If the name on the card is not the student's name, additional documentation must be submitted indicating the student is covered under that plan.

The renewal date will be set to 1 year from the date of upload.

Students may opt to waive the health insurance requirement. By waiving personal healthcare coverage, the student agrees to accept all financial responsibility for any injury associated with clinicals, as required for the BSN program. The document to waive health insurance is available on our policy website [https://www.utt Tyler.edu/nursing/college/student\\_guide\\_and\\_policies.php](https://www.utt Tyler.edu/nursing/college/student_guide_and_policies.php) as item 2.3.6

### **2.3.7 Student Guide**

Please view the Nursing Student Guide and download, print, sign, scan, and upload the “UG Acceptance Affirmation Form” to Castle Branch. The guide and form are available at the website link below.

[https://www.utt Tyler.edu/nursing/college/student\\_guide\\_and\\_policies.php](https://www.utt Tyler.edu/nursing/college/student_guide_and_policies.php)

The guide is located at the top of the webpage, and the UG Acceptance Affirmation Form is under Appendices/Forms.



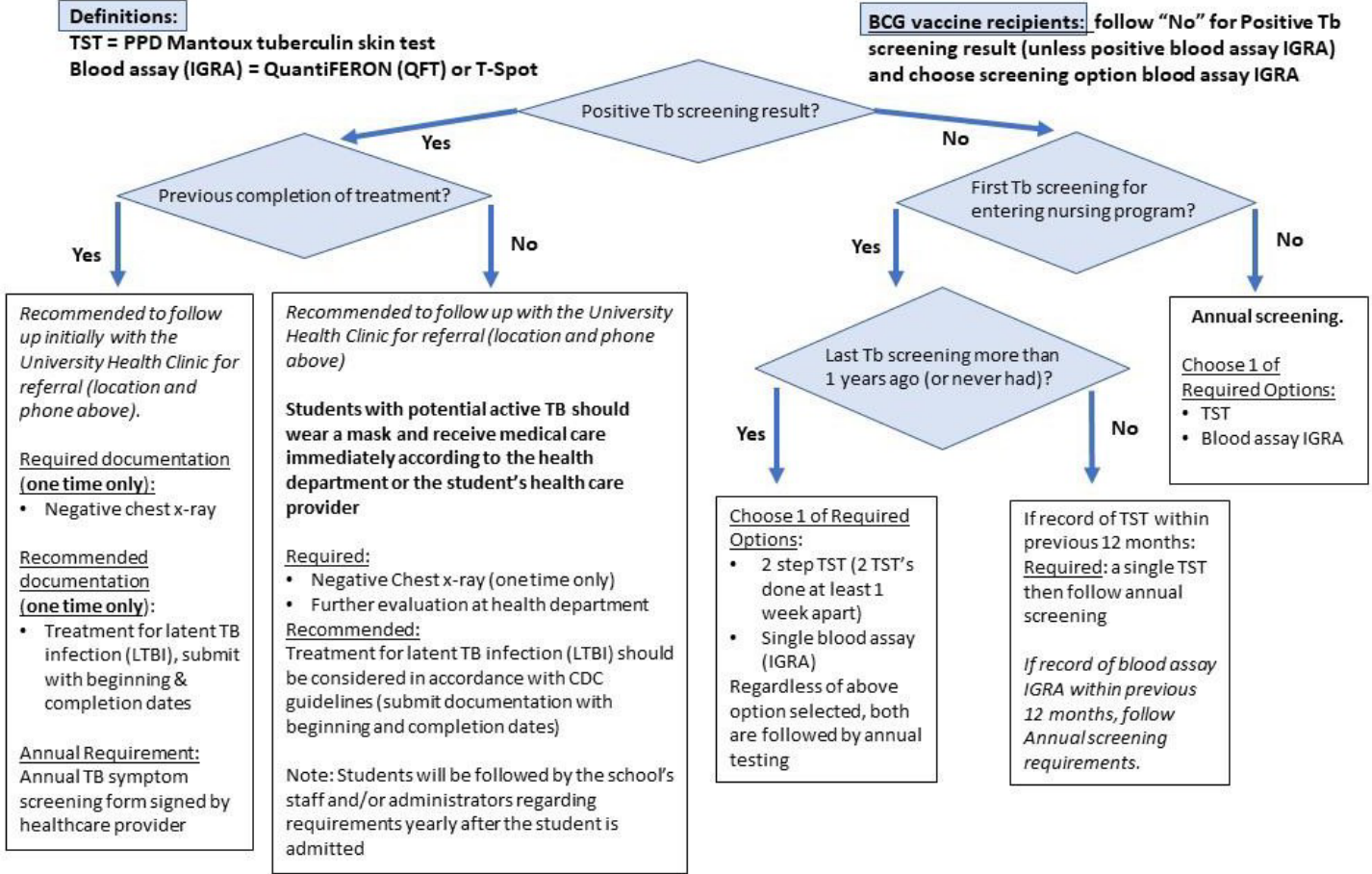
**Appendix A Table of Hepatitis B Series Guidelines**

<p><b>1) Complete serological test of immunity (also known as a titer)</b></p> <p>At least one month after the last dose in the vaccine series must have passed before drawing the initial titer.</p>		
<p><b>If positive antibody titer</b></p>	<p><b>If negative antibody titer: Choose from 2 below vaccine options</b>  <a href="#">(link to visual of schedule options)</a></p>	
<p><b>2) Submit to Castle Branch proof of positive titer required. Recommend submit:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) completion of vaccine series</li> <li>b) positive antibody titer</li> </ul>	<p><b>2) Complete 2 dose series</b> of Heplisav-B (doses one month apart)</p> <p><b>3) Repeat titer</b> one month after final (second) dose.</p> <p><b>Total time</b> <u>approximately 2 months</u>  <i>*See note at bottom of table for additional option</i></p>	<p><b>2) Complete 3 dose series</b> of Engerix-B or Recombivax HB (doses at 0, 1 &amp; 6 months).</p> <p><b>3) Repeat titer</b> one month after final (third) dose.</p> <p><b>Total time</b> <u>approximately 7 months</u>  <i>*See note at bottom of table for additional option</i></p>
	<p><b>4) For either 2 or 3 dose booster series submit to Castle Branch:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If positive final titer, submit the positive titer results</li> <li>• If negative final titer, discuss results with provider and submit provider statement that you are considered a “non-responder” along with below list of documents.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>If positive titer, recommend also including below documentation. If “non-responder” <u>required</u> include below documentation to validate completion of both vaccine series and appropriate timing of final titer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b) completion of “initial” vaccine series</li> <li>c) negative titer</li> <li>d) completion of “booster” vaccine(s)</li> <li>e) results of final titer (1 month after last vaccine)</li> </ul> <p><b>Note: if you are a non-responder, see <a href="#">recommendations from Immunization Action Coalition</a> regarding risks associated with being a non-responder</b></p>	
	<p><b>* Note:</b> for either 2 or 3 dose series <u>students may choose to draw a titer 1 month after first dose</u>. If titer is positive, student is not required to complete the series (<b>if negative must complete series</b>). If titer positive after one “booster” dose, submit to Castle Branch proof of positive titer required. Recommend submit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) completion of “initial” vaccine series</li> <li>b) negative titer</li> <li>c) completion of single “booster” dose of vaccine</li> <li>d) positive antibody titer</li> </ul>	

# Appendix B Flowchart Tb Testing for NON-International Students

## NON-International Students

It is recommended that students obtain requirements for TB screening through the University Health Clinic, 3310 Patriot Drive, Tyler, Tx 75701; Office Hours: M-F 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 903.939.7870



## Sources

CDC Hepatitis B Standards: [Hepatitis B Questions and Answers for Health Professionals | CDC](#)

CDC MMR Standards: [Routine MMR Vaccination Recommendations: For Providers | CDC](#)

CDC Morbidity and Mortality Report: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr6007.pdf>

CDC Varicella Standards: [Varicella Vaccine Recommendations | CDC](#)

Immunization Action Coalition Standards: [Healthcare Personnel Vaccination Recommendations \(immunize.org\)](#)

Texas Department of State Health Services Administrative Code Title 25 Rule 97.64 [Texas Administrative Code \(state.tx.us\)](#)

Texas Department of State Health Services Administrative Code Title 25 Rule 97.65 [Texas Administrative Code \(state.tx.us\)](#)

Texas Health and Human Services [Vaccine Requirements for Healthcare or Veterinary Students \(texas.gov\)](#)