Immunization FAQ:

General –

Q. Where can I go to get my Immunizations done?
A. Your personal physician can often do them although sometimes they do not have all the materials necessary, in which case, it is a good idea to call ahead. If you do not have health insurance, then you can come to our Occupational Healthcare Clinic here on campus and get vaccinations and titers at a reduced price. Their phone # is 303.724.0345. Please call ahead to schedule an appointment.

Q. Do I have to have my Primary Healthcare Provider sign page 2 of the Immunization Form?
A. Yes. Either a physician’s, nurse’s or school health authority’s signature is acceptable. An Immunization Form without a healthcare provider’s signature on the back (and no medical records included as backup) will not be accepted.

Q. What if my Primary Healthcare Provider only has some of my immunizations on file?
A. The College of Nursing (CON) requires 1 of 2 things: a signed Immunization Form OR copies of your actual immunization / medical records documenting when and where you received EACH vaccine dose (or titer / PPD results). If your healthcare provider is willing to sign off on some items and not others, then you may supplement with medical records so long as all the requirements are met.

Q. What happens if I don’t turn in all, or some, of my clinical requirements?
A. If you do not turn them in, then your will not be cleared to go into the clinical environment. The clinical environment is hazardous. Therefore, all clinical agencies require that all students be screened for TB and vaccinated for safety and legal liability reasons. Therefore, they will not accept any student who is missing any one of these requirements (with the possible exception of the Seasonal Flu Shot).

If you are restricted from clinicals because we do not have your requirements on file, then it can seriously impact your progress through the College. Bachelor’s students will be put on an Individual Program Plan (IPP) and receive all future clinical placements on a space available basis. Due to a potential shortage of clinical placements, graduation dates can be delayed for entire semesters or even years. RN-BS and Graduate students will simply not be allowed to go to clinical until they turn in the required documentation.

Q. What if I can’t get all my immunizations done before the deadline?
A. Some vaccinations (especially Hep B) require the doses to be spaced out months apart in order to complete the series. If you get at least the first dose done before the deadline then you will be ok for clinicals, since even one dose does confer some immunity, and it is not recommended for you to get additional doses sooner than scheduled. Go ahead and turn in the incomplete immunization form leaving those additional spaces blank. Once you get your additional doses completed as scheduled, then you will turn in proof to Allison Moravec-Rice directly.

Influenza Vaccine:

Q. Is there a specific place where I need to get my flu shot?
A. No. Any provider is acceptable. Please provide either a proof of purchase or a vaccination report as proof.

Q. What if I can’t get a flu shot this time of year?
A. Due to seasonal availability, this must be completed by December 1st. Flu Shots generally become available in September. This means that Summer and Fall incoming students will have already started classes, whereas Spring incoming students will need the flu shot prior to starting classes.

Q. What if I don’t want to get the Flu Shot for medical or personal reasons?
A. Depending on the clinical agency you are having your clinical rotation at, they may or may not require you to have this. Most agencies will forgive medical reasons, but may still restrict you from entering certain vulnerable departments (such as NICU’s) during the flu season. Other agencies may require you to wear a face mask at all times while on the hospital’s premises during the flu season. Please make sure to fill out and sign the Exemption section on the Immunization Form and indicate the Influenza Vaccine as the one you are declining.

Q. Does the College require the H1N1 Influenza Vaccine?
A. No. But it is recommended.

TB Skin Test (PPD)

Q. How do PPD’s work?
A. PPD stands for Purified Protein Derivative. Your Healthcare provider will inject you with the PPD. If you have ever been exposed to the Tuberculosis virus, then within 48 – 72 hours you will have a reaction at the injection site (redness and/or swelling). If you have not been exposed to the virus, then there will be no reaction. Once the 48-72 hours are up, you will go back to your Healthcare Provider and they will examine the injection site for a reaction to the PPD in order to determine if you are positive or negative for TB.

Q. Where can I go to get my PPD done?
A. You can usually get a PPD from your personal physician. Although not all healthcare providers do PPD’s so we highly recommend calling ahead. The Occupational Healthcare Clinic on campus (phone 303.724.0345) can do them for a reduced price. Also The Little Clinic (in some King Sooper’s in the Denver area), Denver Health’s Traveler’s Clinic or Rocky Mountain Urgent Care also carries them if you need to go after normal business hours.

Q. How many PPD’s do I need to get?
A. If it is your first time getting a PPD (or if it has been over a year since your previous one), then you need to complete 2 tests 7-14 days apart. If it has been less than 1 year from your last test, then you only need to do one PPD. Please document your prior year’s PPD results as well.

Q. What if I tested positive on a PPD?
A. If you have ever tested positive on a PPD (or have had the BCG vaccination – international students only) then you must submit a physicians initial chest x-ray report that says you are negative for TB. Then (once a year) you need to fill out the TB Symptom Monitoring Questionnaire on HealthStream instead of getting your yearly PPD’s.

MMR, Hepatitis B, Varicella, and Polio

Q. What happens if I am unable to get a hold of my childhood immunization records?
A. If you have already been immunized or have had the disease (such as Chicken Pox) but cannot find proof, then you will need to go have titers done for each disease. Polio titers are NOT acceptable for international students.

Q. What is a titer?
A. An antibody titer is a blood test that checks to see if you are immune to a certain disease.

Q. For Hepatitis B, do I have to get the immunizations done AND have a titer?
A. No, but sometimes the body does not produce an immunization to Hepatitis B despite having the 3 dose series of vaccinations. 5% of the population does not respond to this particular vaccine. Therefore, it is highly recommended to get a titer done to prove that you have built up an immunity to Hepatitis B.

Q. What if I had the Hepatitis B vaccinations but my titer is negative?
A. Then you will want to repeat the 3 dose series of vaccinations again and have another titer drawn to prove immunity. If your 2nd titer comes back negative then you are a “Non Responder” and will not have
to repeat the process, however, you should speak with your physician about the risks of being a Non Responder in a Clinical setting.

Q. **How do I schedule my immunizations?**
   - There are 2 doses of the MMR vaccines that must be done at least 28 days apart.
   - There are 3 doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine which must have 1 month between the 1st and 2nd doses, and 6 months between the 1st and 3rd doses.
   - There are 2 doses of the Varicella vaccine which must be done at least 1 month apart.
   - There are 4 doses of the Polio vaccine (international students only). Speak with your physician about the timing between doses.

Q. **What if there is not enough time to get all the doses completed before classes start?**
   A. As long as you can prove that you have had at least 1 dose completed before class starts then you will be allowed to go to Clinical pending the completion of all the other doses. If the series of vaccinations are not completed on time, then you may be denied clinical placements and placed on an Individual Program Plan (IPP).

**Yearly Requirements –**

Q. **Which requirements must be renewed yearly?**
   A. CPR (for Bachelor’s Students), Flu Shot, PPD, and OSHA. Tetanus is due every 10 years (so you may or may not need to renew it while you are with the CON).

Q. **How will I know if I am compliant or not?**
   A. The best way is to keep your own copies in a file that you can check regularly. Or you can watch for an email from the CON stating that you are delinquent on your requirements. However, it is ultimately the student’s responsibility to know when they need to renew their requirements. **Reminder emails are just a courtesy!**

Q. **What if my yearly requirements are due to expire during a Clinical Rotation but after a deadline?**
   A. You must still get them renewed before the deadline. The only exceptions are vaccines with multiple doses (Hep B, Varicella and MMR) where you shouldn’t get them done sooner than scheduled. You will still need to make sure to get them done on time and submit proof to the College. Otherwise you may be pulled out of your clinical rotation midway and placed on an IPP.

**Q: How do I turn in my Documentation? (Please keep your own copies!!)**

➢ Please mail your Immunization Form, Criminal Background Check Authorization and Drug Screen Information Form (along with other enrollment papers) to:

Office of Student Affairs & Diversity  
UC Denver College of Nursing, Campus Box C288-6  
13120 E. 19th Avenue  
Aurora CO 80045

➢ For your CPR Certification or if you need to submit additional proof of Immunizations, then please:
   a. Mail them to:

LinkedIn
Academic Support Professional  
UC Denver College of Nursing, Campus Box C288-13  
13120 E. 19th Avenue  
Aurora CO 80045

   b. Or scan and email them to kimberly.bohman@ucdenver.edu
   c. Fax them to 303.724.1808
   d. Drop them off in Mail Box #13 in the Ed 2 North Building 3rd floor (ask reception for directions).

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Q: Who do I contact if I have further questions?

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