

Drake University
College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Immunization Requirements for Participation in Occupational Therapy Experiential Programs

Background

As part of the occupational therapy curriculum, students are required to participate in the College's experiential education program. This experiential education program provides students with various opportunities to apply their emerging knowledge and skills in occupational therapy in "real world" healthcare environments. As future healthcare professionals, students will be working with patients in a variety of settings such as long-term care facilities, hospitals, clinics, schools, daycare and preschool settings, and community practice. During the experiential education program, students participate as vital members of the healthcare team.

The experiential education program complies with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recommendations for the immunization of healthcare workers. These guidelines are designed to protect healthcare workers, as well as patients, from exposure to diseases. These recommendations are subject to change at any time.

Requirements

All students are required to provide documentation to the College of current immunizations prior to starting experiential activities. Documentation of these immunizations must be uploaded into the experiential education documentation system (CORE). These records are kept on file in CORE for use by the CPHS Experiential Education Office.

Following are the minimum immunization requirements. Individual sites may have additional requirements. Acceptable documentation is a licensed healthcare provider record, immunization card, or laboratory copies of titers.

1. **Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR)**
 - **Measles** – Two immunization dates or positive titer required
 - **Mumps** – Two immunization dates or positive titer required
 - **Rubella** – Two immunization dates or positive titer required
2. **Tetanus/Diphtheria/acellular Pertussis (Tdap)** – Tdap immunization is required every 10 years.
3. **Hepatitis B** – Three immunization dates or positive titer required. A minimum of one immunization must be completed prior to arrival at Drake. The series of three injections must be completed by the end of the first professional year of the program.
4. **Varicella (Chicken Pox)** – Two immunization dates or positive titer required.
5. **Influenza** – Annual immunization required. The Experiential Education Office will provide a due date for this immunization each year, typically around October 1.
6. **COVID-19** – Receipt of this immunization is highly encouraged but receipt and proof are not required by the program. However, many sites, particularly hospital/institutional sites, do require COVID-19 immunization. Therefore, documentation of COVID-19 immunization status is requested to facilitate processing of student placements.
7. **Tuberculosis (TB) Testing** – Incoming students should receive either a 2-step TB skin test (PPD) or a TB blood test no earlier than 4 months prior to the first day of class in your first fall semester, then an annual test/assessment repeated within one year of previous test. Students with a history of a positive TB skin test, a positive TB blood test, or receipt of the BCG vaccine should contact the Experiential Education Office to determine their TB testing requirements. Some sites require additional TB testing.