



## University Policies and Procedures

### 05-01.01 – IMMUNIZATION AND TB SCREENING POLICY

- I. Policy Statement:** Towson University enforces a mandatory pre-matriculation immunization and Tuberculosis screening requirement to reduce the incidence and risk of vaccine-preventable disease in the college community.
- II. Reason for Policy:** This policy is consistent with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the American College Health Association's Recommendations for Institutional Pre-matriculation Immunizations
- III. Responsible Executive and Office:**  
Responsible Executive: Vice President for Student Affairs  
  
Responsible Office: Dowell Health Center
- IV. Entities Affected by this Policy:** All undergraduate and graduate degree and non-degree students, regardless of credit hours, taking courses on Towson's main campus or any of its satellite facilities (Shady Grove, Southern Maryland Higher Education Center, HEAT, and Hagerstown) are covered under this policy.
- Entities Exempted from this Policy:** Students taking courses online, overseas, at their place of employment if employment is off-campus, or at any of the city/county schools, are exempt from this policy.
- V. Procedures:**
- A. Immunization Requirements
1. Measles, Mumps, Rubella Immunity
- Two doses of MMR vaccine given at least 28 days apart and after 12 months of age.
- Acceptable alternative proof of immunity: Positive antibody titer to measles, mumps, and rubella (must submit copy of titer results) OR birth date before 1957. In the event of an outbreak, those born

before 1957 may be required to show titer proof of immunity and, if negative titer, receive one dose MMR.

2. Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis Immunity

History of primary series with DT, DTaP, DTP, or Td.

Entering students must have one booster dose (Td or Tdap) within 10 years of matriculation date. If last Td booster was more than ten years before matriculation date, Tdap should be given in place of Td.

3. Meningococcal Disease (Meningitis)

Who must comply: In accordance with Maryland law, all students living in on-campus housing must be immunized against meningococcal disease or sign a waiver indicating they understand the risks of the disease and decline immunization.

Acceptable vaccine: Quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine (protects against serogroups A, C, Y, and W-135) given within three-five years (depending on vaccine duration) of entry to the University. Either the Menactra MCV4 or Menomune MPSV4 vaccines are acceptable quadrivalent vaccines

4. Polio

Who must comply: all international students from countries listed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as endemic for wild poliovirus (currently Afghanistan, Angola, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan).

Acceptable proof of immunity: three doses IPV or OPV.

B. Tuberculosis Screening

Who must comply: all international students on temporary visa status (regardless of prior BCG inoculation) and all students who have lived outside the U.S. or Canada for six months or longer must be screened for TB and cleared from active infection if screening is positive.

Acceptable TB screening: PPD (Mantoux) intradermal skin test read within 48-72 hours of placement. Tine test not acceptable. PPD must be performed at the University or by a U.S. healthcare provider within one year of entry to the University. Screening must be completed by the end

of the second week of classes or within two weeks after arrival if the student arrives after classes begin.

Clearance procedures if PPD is positive: Students with a past history of a positive PPD must show proof of a negative chest x-ray, performed in the U.S. after the date of the positive PPD. Students with a positive PPD performed at the Dowell Health Center will have one week after the date of the positive PPD reading to obtain a follow up chest x-ray. Students with past history of positive PPD and negative chest x-ray must complete a TB symptom questionnaire.

If further diagnostic testing is required because of an abnormal or equivocal chest x-ray and/or positive symptoms on the TB questionnaire, the student may have to remain out of classes and off campus until clearance is given by the Baltimore County Health Department.

#### C. Documentation

The Towson Health History/Immunization Form, available on the University website, must be completed and returned to the Dowell Health center prior to the student's first semester or summer session in attendance, along with any supportive documentation (chest x-ray report, titer results, etc.). Copies of school immunization records or medical records documenting immunizations are acceptable. Immunization records must be signed by a health care provider.

TB skin test (PPD): A copy of the skin test placement and reading date is required. Reading must be within 72 hours of placement and reaction must be documented in millimeters (mm).

Chest x-ray: A copy of the official report by a chest physician or radiologist is required as proof.

#### D. Exemptions from Immunization Requirements

1. Medical exemptions are vaccine-specific and require verification by a healthcare provider of the medical contraindication to a specific vaccine(s).
2. Religious exemptions require completion of a Request for Exemption on the basis of religious beliefs. Form is available at the Dowell Health Center and must be notarized.

In the event of a disease outbreak, students exempted from immunization requirements may be requested by the University, at the direction of public

health authorities, to show titer proof of immunity, become immunized, or remain off campus for the duration of the outbreak.

E. Consequences of Non-compliance

1. Immunization noncompliance:

Students who fail to comply with the requirements in sections A. and B. above will have a hold placed on their registration and will be unable to register for the following semester. If a temporary waiver is granted for one term, all requirements must be completed before early registration for the subsequent term or registration will be blocked.

2. TB testing noncompliance:

Students who fail to provide documentation of a PPD skin test by the end of the first two weeks of class will not be allowed to continue attending class until the PPD test is completed. Students with a positive PPD skin test who fail to obtain a follow-up chest x-ray within one week as directed by the Health Center will not be allowed to continue attending class until they do so and are cleared by the Health Center. Students with an abnormal chest x-ray may have to remain out of class until further diagnostic testing is completed if recommended by Baltimore County Health Department's Communicable Disease physician.

**Related Policies:** None.

**Approval Date:**

**Effective Date:**

**Amended Date:** 04/12/2010

Approved by: President's Council 1/22/2007