

## **Health Standards & Immunization Requirements – Clinical and Internship Programs**

### **● Purpose**

- o** The Edson College of Nursing & Health Innovation requires each student advanced to and enrolled in a clinical program provide evidence to demonstrate compliance with Health Information standards and Proof of Immunization/Immunity.
- o** The following immunization recommendations apply to all health-care personnel (HCP) and are consistent with the recommendations published by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) (November 25, 2011), or contractual agreements with clinical health care agencies.
- o** According to the CDC ACIP (2011) health care personnel are defined as, “all paid and unpaid persons working in health-care settings who have the potential for exposure to patients and/or infectious materials, including body substances, contaminated medical supplies and equipment, contaminated environmental surfaces, or contaminated air” (p. 2). Students enrolled in clinical programs are included in this definition of health care personnel.
- o** Students enrolled in a clinical program in the Edson College of Nursing & Health Innovation must meet all College and clinical agency health and safety requirements. The purpose of these requirements is to:
  - Provide safe clinical care;
  - Protect healthcare workers from exposure to potentially infectious blood and body fluids;
  - Provide a safe environment for patients and healthcare workers to reduce the risk of nosocomial (hospital acquired) infections;
  - Prevent transmission of communicable infections;
  - Provide emergency care as needed, including CPR.

### **● Source**

- o** Centers for Disease Control – Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (CDC ACIP), Prevention Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (Nov 25, 2011).

### **● Applicability**

- o** All students enrolled in a clinical program in the Edson College of Nursing & Health Innovation. This may also include students enrolled in Clinical Research Management, Master of Healthcare Innovation, PhD, RN-BSN programs and select internships.

### **● Protocol**

- o** Students **must submit proof of immunization and/or immunity to the compliance portal and verify that these records have been posted on their website.**
- o** Students **are responsible** for ensuring that all information has been submitted to **the compliance portal** and prior to enrollment in a clinical program.

o **Noncompliance with Immunization/Immunity and Health Information**

**Requirements:**

- Students will be notified of non-compliance with a health standard from CastleBranch.com, MyClinicalExchange.com and/or the respective clinical program office.
- Students who ***do not meet all immunization/immunity and health information requirements will not be allowed to participate in a clinical program.***

● **Procedure**

o **Immunization and Health Information Requirements:**

- The Edson College of Nursing & Health Innovation requires students advanced to and enrolled in a clinical program provide evidence to demonstrate compliance with the following health requirements:
  - Proof of completed series of **Hepatitis B** vaccine *or* a positive Hepatitis B titer.
    - a. The series includes three inoculations in the following sequence: first dose; second dose one month later; third dose five months after the second dose.
    - b. Evidence of immunity by titer (drawn at least two months after the 3rd dose).
    - c. If the titer is negative after the third inoculation, the student must consult a healthcare provider for necessary follow-up.
- To meet the annual requirement for **TB Screening**, one of the following must be demonstrated:
  - a. Proof of a negative **2 Step** TB Skin Test (TST) as an initial screening; negative TB Skin Test annually thereafter
  - b. Proof of a negative Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA).
  - c. Follow-up treatment is required if the TB Skin Test is positive.
  - d. A TB Skin Test (or evidence of follow-up treatment) is required every 12 months while students are participating in clinical courses.
  - e. Students with positive TB skin test results must be evaluated by a licensed healthcare provider and provide clearance from their healthcare provider indicating they may participate in a clinical course.
- Proof of immunity as demonstrated by a positive titer result to **Measles (Rubeolla) or written documentation of vaccination with 2 doses of live measles or MMR vaccine administered at least 28 days apart.**
- Proof of immunity as demonstrated by a positive (reactive) titer result to **Rubella.**
- Proof of immunity as demonstrated by a positive titer result to **Mumps.**
- Proof of **TDAP** immunization within the past ten (10) years.
- The following will demonstrate proof of immunity to **Varicella:**
  - a. Proof of a positive Varicella titer ***or***
  - b. Two doses of Varicella vaccine administered 4 – 8 weeks apart, followed by a Varicella titer after the 2<sup>nd</sup> immunization.

- i. If the 2<sup>nd</sup> Varicella titer is negative, after completing the series of two Varicella vaccines, the student has met this health requirement to the maximal extent possible.
- **Annual influenza** vaccine – Required *prior to or at the start of the upcoming* influenza season.
  - Students may decline the annual influenza vaccination due to medical or religious reasons; *however, this may result in an inability to progress or continue enrollment in a clinical program.*
- **COVID-19 Vaccine** - per clinical agency requirements
- ***Proof of additional laboratory tests and/or immunizations may be required for clinical experience by some healthcare agencies. Students will be notified accordingly.***

**Special note:** A history of the communicable disease does not constitute immunity.

**Students who do not demonstrate compliance with immunization or titer requirements will not meet clinical agency health standards, and therefore cannot progress into a clinical program.**

● **Statement of Health Clearance**

o **Statement of Health Clearance – (applies to Pre-Licensure Clinical Nursing Programs)**

- Students accepted to the Pre-Licensure Clinical Nursing Programs in the Edson College of Nursing & Health Innovation are required to demonstrate physical and mental health necessary to function effectively as a professional nurse.
- All students enrolled in Pre-Licensure Clinical Nursing Programs will be required to submit a Statement of Health Clearance completed by a licensed health care provider, verifying that they are able to perform the functions of a nursing student.
- Students who have a change in health status (due to illness, surgery, pregnancy, or injury) will be required to submit an updated Statement of Health Clearance, prior to returning to the classroom, laboratory, simulation or clinical practice setting.
- Students are responsible for the costs of these examinations.
- Students may be required to submit an updated Statement of Health Clearance when they demonstrate behavioral and/or performance changes that may indicate a change in health status.
- Students are required to submit an updated Statement of Health Clearance, if he/she experiences a change in their health status (i.e. – hospitalization, injury, etc.), while enrolled in Pre-Licensure Clinical Nursing Programs.
- An updated Statement of Health Clearance must be submitted to the Pre-Licensure Clinical Nursing Program's office prior to returning to any classroom, laboratory, simulation or clinical practice courses.
- After a break in continuous enrollment in an Edson College clinical program, students are required to submit an updated Statement of Health Clearance, prior to enrolling in courses.

● **Statement of Health Insurance**

**o Statement of Health Insurance - (*applies to* all students in clinical nursing programs at Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation)**

- Students must have health insurance.
- Students are responsible for all health care costs.
- Evidence of health insurance coverage must be submitted to the compliance portal

**• Additional Health Requirements**

**o Additional Health Requirements:**

**▪ Evidence of a negative alcohol and drug screen – prior to progression to a clinical program**

**• Substances screened include:**

- i.* Alcohol
- ii.* Amphetamines
- iii.* Barbiturates
- iv.* Benzodiazepines
- v.* Buprenorphine &/ or metabolite
- vi.* Butorphanol
- vii.* Cocaine metabolites
- viii.* Cotinine \*\* Nicotine) – positive results *may* limit ability to progress to a clinical program.
- ix.* Creatinine
- x.* Dextromethorphan
- xi.* Fentanyl
- xii.* Ketamine
- xiii.* Ketamine metabolites
- xiv.* Marijuana metabolites
- xv.* Meperidine
- xvi.* Meprobamate
- xvii.* Methadone
- xviii.* Methaqualone
- xix.* Nalbuphine
- xx.* Naltrexone
- xxi.* Naltrexone metabolites
- xxii.* Opiates
- xxiii.* Oxycodone
- xxiv.* Pentazocine
- xxv.* pH
- xxvi.* Phencyclidine
- xxvii.* Propoxyphene
- xxviii.* Tramadol &/or metabolite
- xxix.* Zolpidem

- Students taking a prescription medication that may result in a positive drug screen are strongly encouraged to seek a letter from the health care provider

who prescribed the medication (on official letterhead) identifying the medication, reason for taking the medication, and whether the medication should be taken prior to the drug screen.

- Students whose drug screen results are positive, and who do not submit data about prescription medications that may result in a positive drug screen will not progress to a clinical program.
- Inconclusive drug test results or drug test results below acceptable levels for creatinine and specific gravity indicate dilution of urine and will require retesting at the student's expense.
- Students whose drug screen results yield two dilute specimens will be subject to evaluation by the Medical Review Officer.
- **Evidence of a negative Nicotine screen may be required by some health care agencies to complete clinical experiences.**

- **Proof of Immunity to Measles (Rubeolla)**

- **Proof of immunity as demonstrated by a positive titer result to Measles (Rubeolla), or written documentation of vaccination with 2 doses of live measles or MMR vaccine administered at least 28 days apart.**

- **If titer is negative** after 2 doses of live measles or MMR vaccine >>> Student submits a petition to Edson College standards committee requesting an exception to this standard. The Petition will allow Edson College to track student's health status in the event of exposure to Measles. At this point, the Standard has been met to the fullest extent possible.
    - **Students without a positive titer to Measles** will not be able to attend academic, clinical or research activities at select health care facilities.
    - **In the event of a Measles outbreak**, students without a positive titer to Measles will be excluded from academic, clinical or research activities for days 5 – 21 following the date of exposure.

- **Proof of Immunity to Mumps**

- **Proof of immunity as demonstrated by a positive titer result to Mumps.**

- **If titer is negative** after 2 doses of MMR vaccine >>> Student submits a petition to Edson College standards committee requesting an exception to this standard. The Petition will allow Edson College to track student's health status in the event of exposure to Mumps. At this point, the Standard has been met to the fullest extent possible.
    - **Students without a positive titer to Mumps** will not be able to attend academic, clinical or research activities at select health care facilities.
    - **In the event of a Mumps outbreak**, students without a positive titer to Mumps will be required to be evaluated by a licensed health care provider. Dependent upon the recommendations of the licensed health care provider, the student may be excluded from academic, clinical or research activities for days 12 – 25 following the date of exposure.

- **Proof of Immunity to Varicella**

- **Proof of immunity to Varicella as demonstrated by proof of a positive Varicella titer or two doses of Varicella vaccine administered 4 – 8 weeks apart, followed by a Varicella titer after the 2<sup>nd</sup> immunization.**

- If the 2<sup>nd</sup> Varicella titer is negative, after completing the series of two Varicella vaccines>>> Student submits a petition to Edson CONHI standards committee requesting an exception to this standard. The Petition will allow Edson CONHI to track student's health status in the event of exposure to Varicella. At this point, the Standard has been met to the fullest extent possible.
    - **Students without a positive titer to Varicella** will not be able to attend academic, clinical or research activities at select health care facilities.
    - **In the event of a Varicella outbreak**, students without a positive titer to Varicella will be required to be evaluated by a licensed health care provider. Dependent upon the recommendations of the licensed health care provider, the student may be excluded from academic, clinical or research activities for days 12 – 25 following the date of exposure.

- **Proof of Immunity to Hepatitis B**

- **Proof of immunity to Hepatitis B as demonstrated by proof of completed series of Hepatitis B vaccine or a positive Hepatitis B titer.**

- The series includes three inoculations in the following sequence: first dose; second dose one month later; third dose five months after the second dose.
    - Evidence of immunity by titer (drawn at least two months after the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose).
    - If the titer is negative, the student must consult a healthcare provider for necessary follow-up.
    - In the case of a negative titer, the student may submit a petition to Edson College Standards committee requesting an exception to this standard, after consultation with a health care provider regarding follow up treatment. The petition will allow Edson CONHI to track student's health status in the event of exposure to Hepatitis B. At this point, the Standard has been met to the fullest extent possible.
    - **Students without a positive titer to Hepatitis B** will not be able to attend academic, clinical or research activities at select health care facilities.
    - **In the event of a Hepatitis B exposure**, students without a positive titer to Hepatitis B will be required to be evaluated by a licensed health care provider. Dependent upon the recommendations of the licensed health care provider, the student may be excluded from academic, clinical or research activities. Return to academic, clinical or research activities will be dependent upon approval of a licensed health care provider.

- **Additional Information**

- **Latex Sensitivity and/or Allergy**

- Healthcare workers are at risk for developing latex sensitivity or latex allergy which may be life-threatening. Dry, itchy, irritated areas on the hands from wearing latex gloves or exposure to the powders on the gloves may be symptoms of contact dermatitis rather than a latex allergy. The symptoms of latex allergy

include skin rash, hives, flushing, itching, nasal, eye or sinus symptoms and asthma.

- It is important for anyone with a latex allergy or sensitivity, to know there is an increased risk of exposure to products that contain natural rubber latex in healthcare settings. There is also a higher risk for developing a latex sensitivity or allergy due to frequent exposure to latex containing products. Once one becomes allergic to latex, special precautions should be taken to prevent further exposure to latex. If one develops symptoms of latex allergy, they should avoid further contact with latex-containing products, notify faculty of record and/or Skills Lab staff, and see their healthcare provider for follow-up testing and care.

#### **o CPR Requirements**

- Students in a Clinical Nursing Program must maintain current Healthcare Provider cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification.
- Students are not allowed to participate in clinical courses without proof of current CPR certification.
- Students must submit a photocopy of the CPR certificate to the compliance portal before participation in clinical courses.
- Students are to provide proof of current CPR certification to clinical agencies and/or instructors upon request.
- Students are responsible for all expenses incurred in obtaining CPR certification.