

Health Care Requirements for ADN Students

Frequently Asked Questions

Note: This form is provided as a guide for prospective ADN students at LSC. We will provide additional details about the documentation necessary once students have been admitted into the program. We are not an immunization clinic or information clearinghouse. Additional questions should be directed to an immunization clinic or your health care provider. We have also provided some links at the bottom of this page.

Who decides which immunizations are required? The hospitals that we use for our clinical sites. We set our requirements to the clinical setting that has the most rigid requirements.

Are these requirements the same for every program? No, the requirements will vary depending on the requirements of the clinical facilities that each program uses. Therefore each college and/or program may have different immunization requirements.

When do these tests need to be completed? You will not be asked to show proof of immunizations until you are accepted into the program, however, you can start receiving vaccinations whenever you like. Many vaccinations will be effective for 7-10 years. A sample immunization form is available on the Nursing website under *documents*. All of the paperwork will be due BEFORE you begin the program but AFTER you have been admitted: July for Basic Track students and May for Transition Track students.

What if I had these labs or immunizations completed a long time ago but I don't have any documentation? You must show proof to the health care professional that will sign off on your immunization and/or physical exam paperwork. If your vaccinations are more than 7-10 years old or if you cannot find your paperwork you must have the vaccinations redone or have blood drawn for titers to prove that you still have immunity to the diseases.

What certifications, immunizations, labs, etc. are required?

- *CPR for Health Care Providers* – American Heart Association approved CPR certification will be due before the start of the program. This is available through the continuing education departments in NHMCCD. The certification must be renewed every 2 years.
- *Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)* - proof of disease immunity via a titer or evidence of immunization. If two MMR's were administered between 1970 & 1980, a third dose is required. Some of the MMR vaccines at that time did not contain live viruses and did not work.
- *Chicken Pox (Varicella)* - Proof of disease immunity via a titer or evidence of immunization is required. If you have never had the disease you will need two (2) shots 30 days apart.
- *TB (PPD) Skin test*- You will need to have two during the program, normally one before the start of Nursing I and then again before Nursing III. If your PPD test is positive then evidence of a chest x-ray or treatment of disease is required. The chest x-ray will be good for ~3-5 years (varies by hospital). Note: Our main hospital requires a chest x-ray within 12 months.
- *Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap)* – If your tetanus-diphtheria (Td) vaccine is more than two (2) years old, or you have never had any tetanus vaccine, you will need to request the new Tdap vaccine. If you had the Td vaccine within the last two years, you will not be required to receive the new vaccine until your current Td is more than two (2) years old.
- *Hepatitis B series* (3 immunizations in 6 months) completed or proof of immunity via a titer.
- *Physical Exam*- You will need a health care professional (MD, RN, NP, etc.) to sign off on a full physical exam, including bloodwork. The physical exam needs to be completed before the program begins and cannot be more than one year old.

You will need to attach a copy of all appropriate lab paperwork for titers that were drawn to verify immunity.

When should I begin the process? You should take into account the following: Time it takes to get an appointment, time for labs to come back, time required between shots, cost of each shot, time for health care professional to sign forms, when the shot will expire, etc. Remember, this paperwork is not due until **AFTER** you have been admitted in April.

Links: Vaccination Coalition www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/partners/coalitions.shtm
Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) www.cdc.gov
Immunization Action Coalition <http://www.vaccineinformation.org/>