

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Frequently Asked Questions

All incoming dental students and clinical providers must show proof of immunity to several diseases in order to take courses at the College and also to practice safely in the clinical setting. The *College of Dentistry Immunization Requirements Form* is the only form accepted.

What proof of immunization is required for the College of Dentistry?

- Positive Titers for: Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella and Hepatitis B (ANTIGEN AND ANTIBODY)—**Must provide lab reports!**
- 2-step PPD skin test or Quantiferon Gold TB blood test
- DT or TDaP within the past 10 years
- Proof of childhood polio series or adult booster

What are blood titers?

Titers are blood tests that quantify antibodies or antigens present to determine immunity to a certain disease.

How do I get titers done?

Visit your healthcare provider and provide them with the College Immunization form. Note that many health insurance companies do not cover titers. If you do not currently have a healthcare provider who can complete the form and draw titers, the Occupational Health Service Institute, within University Health Services here on campus offers special out-of-pocket pricing for incoming students. Their contact number is: (312) 996-7420.

I do not have my childhood vaccination records for polio. What should I do?

If you cannot obtain your childhood vaccinations dates, you will need to either

1. Submit positive titer results, or
2. Be re-vaccinated. Make sure that your healthcare provider writes the full date of vaccination (month/day/year) on the form.

I had my titers done a long time ago. Is there an expiration date on the titers?

No. Positive titers are acceptable from any time in the past. Dates only will not be accepted. **Remember to submit actual lab reports!**

One of my Measles, Mumps or Rubella titers is not immune. What do I do?

Follow your medical provider's directions. Most likely, at least one booster vaccine will be indicated. A new titer should be drawn 3-4 weeks after this booster. *If MMR has been given, the recommendation is to wait 4-6 weeks before giving a routine TB PPD skin test.*

My Hepatitis B Antibody titer is negative. I had the vaccine series many years ago. Am I not immune to Hep B?

You are most likely immune, but immunity to Hep B may be hard to detect if the vaccinations were given over 1 yr before the titer was obtained. Follow your healthcare provider recommendations: a booster vaccine or the complete series is likely to be indicated. You will be provided 7 months grace period to complete the Hepatitis B immunization series and obtain a new titer.

Can I submit proof of Tetanus Toxoid (TT) instead of DT?

No. The vaccine must be DT, TD, DPT or TDaP. TT is not acceptable by either the University of Illinois or the College of Dentistry.

What is required for TB screening?

Either the two-step Tuberculin Skin Test (Mantoux or PPD) or the Quantiferon Blood Test (QFGT).

If you obtain *skin tests*: you must present one negative base TST test ("step 1") plus a second test within 3 weeks ("step 2"). The most recent test must be within 12 months. *Annual TB testing will be required for all direct clinical providers, and it consists of the QFGT.*

I have had a positive TB test in the past. What do I do?

You must submit the following:

- Medical letter stating the date of positive PPD and reaction result in mm
- Follow up chest x-ray report (with a date after the positive PPD test)

IF YOU CANNOT PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION OF A POSITIVE TEST, THE PPD TEST MUST BE REPEATED. This is mandated by the IL Department of Public Health.

I have been vaccinated against TB, do I still need a TB test?

Yes. History of BCG Vaccine is not acceptable as proof of PPD testing history and it does not exempt providers from annual testing.

My lab reports are written in a different language, will they be accepted?

Any documents submitted must include official English translations.

For further information, you may refer to the [CDC website related to immunization requirements](#) for healthcare personnel.