IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FAQ’s

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. Original documents are preferred.

What proof of immunization is required for the College of Dentistry?
- Positive Titers for: Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella and Hepatitis B – Must provide copies of lab results!
- 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 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 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, 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 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 the actual lab reports!

One of my Measles, Mumps or Rubella titers is not immune. What do I do?
In the event of non-immune titers, follow your medical provider’s directions. At least one booster vaccine will probably be indicated. A 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 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 is hard to detect if the vaccinations were given over 1 yr before the titer was obtained. Follow your healthcare provider recommendations, a booster vaccine may be indicated.

Can I submit proof of Tetanus Toxoid (TT) instead of DT?
No. The vaccine must be DT, TD, DPT or TDaP. Tetanus toxoid (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 (QFTG). If there is no history of a negative TST test within the past 12 months, a second skin test within 3 weeks is recommended (“step 2”) Annual TB testing will be required for all direct clinical providers, and it consists of the QFTG.

I have had a positive TB test in the past. What do I do?
Students testing positive on a PPD skin test 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 VACCINATION is not acceptable proof of PPD positive history and it does not exempt clinical providers from annual TB testing.

For further information, you may refer to the CDC website related to immunization requirements for healthcare personnel.