RUTGERS
School of Nursing

SCHOOL OF NURSING POLICY

SUBJECT:	Academic Affairs	**TITLE:**	Compliance with Student Immunizations & Health Requirements		
Responsible Executive:	Dean of the School of Nursing		**Responsible Office:**	Academic Affairs and Administration	
CODING:	06-01-05-07:00	**ADOPTED:**	10/25/10	**AMENDED:**	6/28/13
				LAST REVIEWED: 6/28/13	

I. PURPOSE

To ensure compliance with RBHS Student Health Requirements and with regulations promulgated in the Memorandum of Understanding between the School of Nursing and host facilities; to prevent outbreaks of vaccine-preventable communicable diseases among students; to prevent or reduce the risk of transmission of vaccine-preventable and other communicable diseases between students and patients and other persons at the School of Nursing and School-affiliated health care units; and to comply with N.J.S.A. 18A:61 D-1 et seq. and the regulations promulgated at N.J.A.C. 8:57-6.1 et seq.

II. ACCOUNTABILITY

Under the direction of the Dean or designee, the Office of Academic Affairs and Administration, in conjunction with the Academic Assistant Deans, Program Chairs and SN faculty shall implement this policy.

III. REFERENCES (please visit http://policies.rutgers.edu to access these RBHS policies)

A. Disabilities and RBHS Students/Applicants

B. Student Essential Functions

C. HIV, HBV and HCV

D. Student Immunizations and Health Requirements

IV. APPLICABILITY

This policy shall apply to every student matriculated or enrolled full-time or part-time in a School of Nursing program, including joint and collaborative programs with other institutions, and to all visiting, exchange and special-program students from other institutions. The sole exceptions/exemptions are listed in Section V. B of RBHS policy Student Immunizations and Health Requirements.

V. POLICY

A. Students enrolled in courses at the School of Nursing are required to be in full compliance with School and RBHS policies regarding student immunizations and health requirements.
B. At the time of initial enrollment, students are notified in writing as to the immunization and health requirements. A copy of this policy is also posted on the School of Nursing website.
C. In many instances, compliance must be documented prior to matriculation or enrollment as per RBHS policy.
D. A general notice will be sent to all students prior to the opening of course registration each semester via RBHS e-mail reminding students of their responsibility to comply with the RBHS policy on Student Immunizations and Health Requirements.
E. Students not in compliance within the policy-designated time frame may not participate in didactic and clinical activity and will be notified by the Office of Clinical Affairs in addition to didactic/clinical faculty and/or program coordinators.
F. An administrative hold on course registration, or a hold on release of grades/transcripts will be placed on the last business day prior to the opening of course registration for each semester. The administrative hold on registration and release of grades/transcripts will be removed by the Office of Clinical Affairs once the student has fulfilled the RBHS health requirements.

G. The following Student Immunization & Health Requirements **require special attention**:
    a. Students who may have patient contact with risk of exposure to blood or other potentially infectious body fluids, or laboratory/research contact with blood or other potentially infectious body fluids or laboratory material **must undergo testing for HBV infection and immunity prior to enrollment or matriculation**, and prior to patient contact, in addition to any previous immunization against HBV. If a student cannot complete the full three-dose series of immunizations prior to enrollment or matriculation, **at least one dose of vaccine must be taken prior to commencing any activities with any risk of exposure**.
    b. If students test negative for HBV infection and have been previously immunized but have inadequate levels of antibodies despite such previous immunization, **they must receive a booster dose of the vaccine prior to patient contact or contact with other potentially infectious body fluids or laboratory material**.
    c. Students who still do not respond with antibody production following a second series of immunizations are considered **susceptible to HBV infection**, and **must be counseled** regarding precautions to prevent HBV infection and the need to obtain hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) prophylaxis for any known or probable significant exposure to HbsAg-positive blood.

d. If the initial ***HBV tests are positive*** and indicate a significant potential for transmission of the virus, an evaluation will be made prior to patient contact of the need for monitoring of clinical performance and/or of the scope of assigned or permitted clinical activities consistent with patient protection, especially the performance of exposure-prone procedures.
e. Each student must undergo TB testing using the Mantoux method or an FDA-approved blood assay for TB, **within three months prior to first matriculation** or enrollment, and **annually** thereafter if the initial test result was negative.
f. If baseline TB testing is performed with an FDA-approved blood assay for TB, the above-described two-step method is not necessary.
g. Students with a history of BCG (Bacille Calmette-Guerin) vaccination **are not** exempt from the TB testing requirement because there are no data to indicate that these individuals experience an excessively severe reaction to PPD testing, and because anyone with a history of BCG with a positive PPD test result is considered infected with TB and is treated accordingly.
h. Students who have initial positive TB test results, subsequent TB test conversions, or symptoms suggestive of TB **must be evaluated promptly for active TB**. This evaluation should include a history, clinical examination and a chest X-ray.
i. All students must submit documented proof of immunity to measles, mumps and rubella **prior to matriculation or enrollment**.
j. All students must undergo a complete history and physical examination within **six months prior to first matriculation or enrollment** and at annual or other appropriate intervals thereafter if indicated by the initial findings. The results of the history and physical examination must be reported to the appropriate student health service or school administrator's office.
k. Students with patient contact or who are located in any patient-care facility **must be immunized each year** during the fall season with the current influenza vaccine.
l. Students with patient contact or who are located in any patient-care **facility must, prior to matriculation or enrollment, receive 2 doses of varicella vaccine 4 to 8 weeks apart or prove immunity to varicella-zoster virus via serology**. Because of potential transmission of the vaccine virus to susceptible high-risk patients, such as immunocompromised patients, newborns and pregnant women, **contact with high-risk susceptible patients should be avoided if a vaccine-related rash develops within three weeks of receipt of either the first or second dose of the vaccine**.
m. Effective for students matriculating or enrolling in the 2007 Fall semester or later, with the availability of Tdap (tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis) immunization, students with patient contact or who are located in any patient-care facility **must, prior to matriculation or enrollment, receive one dose of Tdap if two or more years have passed since the last Td booster dose or since the primary DPT series**.

VI. PROCEDURE

A. Students who receive part of their educational program at any clinical affiliate of the RBHS must be in compliance with all health and immunization requirements of the other institution as well as with the applicable requirements of this policy.
B. Students who are not accepted into a School of Nursing educational program in sufficient time to produce required documentation or to complete immunizations and tests by the start of classes in the first semester or trimester of their educational program are **enrolled on a provisional basis** for the first semester or trimester of classes.
C. However, depending upon which documentation, immunization or test is lacking, these students may be excluded from certain activities such as patient contact.
D. **Provisional enrollment on this basis may not continue beyond the first semester or trimester**.
E. A student may be exempted from any required immunization if they have a medical contraindication for that immunization **and** if failure to receive this immunization does not prevent fulfillment of the Essential Functions and curricular requirements of the academic program. **Conditions comprising valid medical contraindications to vaccine administration are those set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**.
F. These written physician's statements shall become part of the student's immunization record (see Section V.C of RBHS policy Student Immunizations and Health Requirements) and shall be reviewed annually by a health professional from the student health service or an infectious disease expert to determine whether this exemption shall remain in effect for the next year. When a medical contraindication no longer exists, the student must then comply with the immunization requirements.
G. A general philosophical or moral objection to immunization shall not suffice as the basis for exemption on religious grounds.
H. For visiting, exchange and special program students from other institutions who are not matriculated or enrolled in a regular School of Nursing program, documentation from another educational or health-care institution of having met the requirements listed in section V of this policy may be accepted by the Assistant Dean of Clinical Affairs in consultation with the student health services director.
I. Because of the necessity for immunization records to be available for inspection by the State (section V.C.4 of RBHS policy), they must be kept separate from student academic, health and other confidential records.
J. Summaries of measles-mumps-rubella, meningococcal and hepatitis B student immunization/immune status must be available for inspection by authorized representatives of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, and the local board of health within 24 hours of notification, as required by N.J.A.C. 8:57-6.14.

By Direction of the Dean:

SIGNATURE ON FILE

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Dean of the School of Nursing