# POLICIES

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<th>Responsible Party:</th>
<th>Revised: 1/20</th>
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<td>Program Director</td>
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**Approved by:**
K-State PA Program Principal Faculty

**Subject:** Student Health, Immunizations and Counseling

## PURPOSE:

The purpose of this document is to define policies, procedures and availability of health services for students enrolled in the physician assistant program, and Immunization Policy.

**ARC-PA Associated Standards:**

- **A1.05** - PA students must be provided student health services equivalent to those services provided other comparable students.
- **A3.07** - The program must have and implement a policy on immunization based on current CDC recommendations for health care professionals.
- **A3.09** - Principal faculty, the program director and the medical director must not participate as health care providers for students in the program, except in an emergency situation.
- **A3.10** - The program must have written policies that provide for timely access and/or referral of students to services addressing personal issues which may impact their progress in the PA program.
- **A3.19** - Student files kept by the program must include documentation: (b) that the student has met institution and program health screening, and immunization requirements.
- **A3.21** - Student health records are confidential and must not be accessible to or reviewed by program, principal or instructional faculty or staff except for immunization and tuberculosis screening results which may be maintained and released with written permission from the student. **ANNOTATION:** The ARC-PA does not consider needle stick/sharp records, results of drug screening, or criminal background checks, a part of the health record.

## POLICY STATEMENT:

- All students **MUST** provide proof of health insurance prior to matriculation. Each Student’s personal health insurance policy must remain active throughout their participation in the program.
- Students are financially responsible for the cost of all health care services they may require while enrolled in the program, including any health care services required as a result of their participation in scheduled program activities (e.g. TB testing, immunizations, treatment of injuries, pathogen exposure evaluation and treatment).
- Prior to matriculation at Kansas State University, students must refer to Vaccination Requirements at [https://www.K-State.edu/admissions/orientation.html](https://www.K-State.edu/admissions/orientation.html) and follow the K-State required process for documentation of immunizations. Lafene Health Center does not share these forms/documents with the PA program.
- Once completed, students must maintain compliance with all CDC recommended
immunizations throughout the program or they will not be allowed to participate in patient care in clinical settings.

**Specific Health/Immunization Requirements (A3.07):**

- **Physical Examination and Immunization Forms:** Students must submit a copy of the provided PA physical examination, and PA immunization forms, with attached laboratory verification/titers as indicated to the program prior to enrollment. These forms must be completed by the student’s health care provider and returned directly to the PA program. These forms will include documentation that the student completed the physical examination, meets the technical standards of the program, and their immunization status.

- **Proof of current health insurance.** The Physician Assistant Program requires that PA students have current health insurance. This is mandatory for each year of enrollment in the program. Students will be required to provide a copy of their insurance card to the program in January of each year. This will be maintained in the student file.

- Full-time students at K-State have the option of voluntarily purchasing a health insurance policy through United HealthCare Student Resources. This policy may be used at the Lafene Health Center for covered benefits. To learn more or to purchase this policy, call United HealthCare Student Resources Customer Service at (800) 767-0700. For more information, visit Kansas Board of Regents.

**Immunization Requirements:**

- The K-State PA program immunization requirements are based on the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) published recommendations for healthcare personnel, and can be found at Healthcare Personnel Vaccination Recommendations (PDF). With the exception of the hepatitis B immunization series and titer demonstrating immunity, all immunization requirements must be fully complied with, in the first 30 days post matriculation, or the student will be withdrawn from classes without credit. Students who require one or more multiple dose vaccine series to meet immunization requirements must provide medical documentation that they have initiated the process prior to the first day of orientation. They must also provide medical documentation of completion of the process according to established CDC immunization timelines. Students failing to do so will be recommended for dismissal from the program. Additionally, no student may participate in any didactic clinical experience until all immunizations/titers have been completed.

- **Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR):** One of the following is required:
  - Proof of two immunizations against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) or laboratory evidence of a positive (immune) titer against each of the three infections. 2 vaccinations: The first vaccination MUST be administered AFTER the age of 1 regardless of vaccination type. Vaccinations can be a combined MMR vaccination, however if individualized vaccinations are submitted you MUST submit 2 vaccinations for Mumps and Measles and 1 vaccination for Rubella OR
  - Positive antibody titer (lab report required) for all 3 components. If your titer was negative or equivocal, you must receive 1 booster vaccine (administered after your titer) and provide a 2nd titer.
  - In the absence of proof of either immunization or immunity, students must
immunized.

- **Tuberculosis:**
  - Proof of a negative 2 step TB skin test (administered 1-3 weeks apart) for tuberculosis* (by Mantoux) within 60 days of matriculation, and, if positive, proof of a chest x-ray negative for active disease.
  - Additionally, the TB skin test must be repeated again in the October preceding the clinical education phase.
  - An acceptable alternative test is a negative Interferon-Gamma Release Assay (IGRA). The commercial names of these tests are QuantiFERON TB Gold In-tube or T-SPOT.
  - Please visit the CDC's Yellow Book for information related to international travel.

- **Varicella:** One of the following is required:
  - Documentation of two varicella (chickenpox) immunizations or proof of positive (immune) varicella titer (lab Report required).
  - In the absence of proof of either immunization or immunity, students must repeat the series.

- **Tdap:** Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis) one of the following is required:
  - Documentation of a Tdap (Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis)vaccination administered within the past 10 years
  - OR
  - Documentation of a Tdap vaccination administered from any time **AND** a Td (Tetanus & Diphtheria) booster administered within the past 10 years
  - Renewal will be set for 10 years from the most recent vaccination. Upon renewal a Td booster is required.

- **Hepatitis B:**
  - Proof of the three-dose immunization against hepatitis B. This series must be started within 60 days of matriculation. Following completion of the hepatitis B series, a positive (immune) titer must be completed prior to patient contact. Non-converters may require additional immunizations per the CDC recommendations.
  - Students with chronic hepatitis B infection will be allowed to enroll if they meet all other requirements, but will be monitored to ensure that they are in compliance with the 2012 Updated CDC Recommendations for the Management of Hepatitis B Virus-Infected Health-Care Providers and Students. These students will require DNA serum levels every six months to monitor infectivity levels. Students whose hepatitis B level is not undetectable or below level of 1,000 IU may require limitation of exposure-prone invasive procedures, or modifications in their clinical training as required by the program or clinical education sites.
  - The CDC noted that since its last update in 1991, there have been no reports of hepatitis B transmission in the United States or other developed countries from “medical or dental students ... or any others who would not normally perform exposure-prone invasive procedures.”
  - In brief: the CDC’s updated recommendations provide current medical information about managing students in health-related schools who have hepatitis B.

- **Influenza:**
  - Proof of influenza vaccination annually; must be given by the end of October of each year enrolled in the PA program.

- **Other Immunizations:** Students may occasionally be involved in patient care activities that require additional immunizations or disease prophylaxis (e.g.
international rotations). It is the responsibility of the student to consult with the PD/CD to determine if any additional precautions are necessary.

- Immunization records must be submitted to Exxat compliance tracking system, NOT to the PA Program.
- The PA program will access Exxat to ensure completion of required immunizations and TB screening of all students, and a copy of the immunization record will be placed in the student’s file.
- Students will be provided access to Exxat online files.
- Students are financially responsible for the cost of maintaining compliance with health, health insurance and immunization requirements.
- Clinical sites may require additional vaccinations and documentation.
- Students with a medical contraindication for specific vaccinations may have additional requirements mandated (e.g., students with a medical contraindication for influenza vaccination may be required to wear a mask during the entire influenza season). Some clinical facilities do not permit students who have not received the influenza vaccination for medical reasons, even with use of a mask. Changes in clinical site requirements may necessitate change in clinical rotation assignment or the inability to be placed on clinical rotations.

Prior to entering the clinical phase of the program, students must again update their immunization and Health forms, and provide proof of the following:

- Current BLS Certification (will receive training/certification during the didactic year).
- Updated annual TB PPD or tine test
- Blood-borne pathogen orientation course
- Current personal health insurance throughout the clinical year
- Annual influenza vaccination
- Annual Physical Examination

For more information on immunization of Health Care Workers go to: [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/)

Faculty as health care providers (in partial compliance of Standard A3.09)

- The PA faculty (including the program and medical directors) will not provide medical care to students (unless in an emergency), but may facilitate referrals to health facilities.

- The PA faculty (including the program and medical directors) will not have access to any student health information other than that defined in this policy.

- During the clinical rotation, assigned preceptors may only provide emergency care to students. Preceptors will not provide routine care to PA students.

Medical and counseling services (in partial compliance of Standard A3.10)

- To provide timely access and referral of students to services addressing personal issues, which may impact the student’s progression in the PA program, the K-State Counseling Services [https://www.k-state.edu/counseling/student/](https://www.k-state.edu/counseling/student/) will provide up to four counseling
visits per fiscal year (July 1-June 30) at no charge, regardless of the student’s insurance status. Visits 5-10 will cost $15/ hour, and sessions 11 and above at $25/ hour.

- The Office of Counseling Services is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (8:00 a.m. - noon and 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the summer) when the university is open. When the office is closed, mental health consultation is available at any time by calling (785-532-6927). For students in immediate crisis see Counseling Services Emergencies.

- The Office of Student Life also provides support to the K-State Family by providing additional support, connecting students, parents, families, faculty and staff to campus resources, and addressing any questions or concerns that they may have, including emotional and mental health concerns. The office is open 24 hrs. a day, provides information on available resources to include a “Student of Concern” guide which assists faculty, students and staff to help those requiring assistance. A Student of Concern Form can be completed by faculty, staff or students for concerns related to academic, personal, physical concerns of the individual. Institutional personnel will use the information from this form to provide assistance to the student reported.

- Full-time students at K-State have the option of voluntarily purchasing a health insurance policy through United HealthCare Student Resources. This policy may be used at the Lafene Health Center for covered benefits. To learn more or to purchase this policy, call United HealthCare Student Resources Customer Service at (800) 767-0700. For more information, visit Kansas Board of Regents.

- Students with health or personal issues that arise while enrolled in the PA program are encouraged to discuss any educational program related concerns with the program director or their faculty advisor. The PA faculty (including the program and medical directors) may not provide medical care to students or access student health records, but may facilitate referrals to health facilities.

Student health records (in partial compliance of Standard A3.21)

- PA student health records are confidential and are not accessible to or reviewed by program faculty or staff, except for immunization and tuberculosis screening results, which are retained and released with written permission from the student.

- The program does not consider needle stick/sharp reports, results of drug screening or criminal background checks a part of the health record.