

 <p>College of Health and Human Sciences Physician Assistant Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">POLICIES</p>	Effective Date: January 1, 2020
Responsible Party: Program Director	ARC-PA Standards Addressed: A1.04, A3.07a,b, A3.09, A3.10, A3.18, A3.19
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: <p>A1.04 -The sponsoring institution <i>must</i> provide academic support and <i>student services</i> to PA students that are <i>equivalent</i> to those services provided to other <i>comparable</i> students of the institution.</p> <p>A3.07 - The program <i>must</i> define, publish, make <i>readily available</i> and consistently apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. a policy on immunization and health screening of students. Such policy <i>must</i> be based on then current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for health professionals and state specific mandates. b. written travel health policies based on then current CDC recommendations for international travel for programs offering elective international curricular components. <p>A3.09 - The program <i>must</i> define, publish, make <i>readily available</i> and consistently apply policies that preclude <i>principal faculty</i>, the program director, and the <i>medical director</i> from participating as health care providers for students in the program, except in an emergency situation.</p> <p>A3.10 - The program <i>must</i> define, publish, make <i>readily available</i> and consistently apply written procedures that provide for <i>timely</i> access and/or referral of students to services addressing personal issues which may impact their progress in the PA program.</p> <p>A3.18 - PA students and other unauthorized persons <i>must</i> not have access to the academic records or other confidential information of other students or faculty.</p> <p>A3.19 - Student <i>health records</i> are confidential and <i>must</i> not be accessible to or reviewed by <i>program, principal or instructional faculty</i> or staff except for immunization and screening results, which may be maintained and released with written permission from the student.</p>	

POLICY STATEMENT:

- c. 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.
- d. 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).
- e. Prior to matriculation at Kansas State University, students must refer to Vaccination Requirements at <https://www.k-state.edu/lafene/requirements/> and follow the K-State required process for documentation of immunizations. Lafene Health Center does not share these forms/documents with the PA program.
- f. 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.
- g. All students must upload the Health Information and Immunization form to Exxat.

Specific Health/Immunization Requirements (A3.07):

List of Immunizations per CDC 11/2023: COVID-19, Chickenpox, Flu, Hepatitis B, Meningococcal, MMR, Tdap (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/index.html#other>)

- h. **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.
- i. **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.
- j. 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:

- k. 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.

- l. **COVID-19:** Kansas State University does not require the COVID-19 vaccine. However, many clinical sites require proof of COVID-19 vaccination prior to the start of clinical rotations.
- m. **Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR):** One of the following is required:
 - a. 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

 - b. 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.
 - c. In the absence of proof of either immunization or immunity, students must be immunized.
- n. **Tuberculosis:**
 - a. Must be completed within the **90 days** preceding the 1st day of classes.
 - b. Proof of a negative 2 step TB skin test (administered 1-3 weeks apart) for tuberculosis* (by Mantoux) within 90 days of matriculation, and, if positive, proof of a chest x-ray negative for active disease.
 - c. An acceptable alternative test is a negative Interferon-Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) within the past 3 months. The commercial names of these tests are QuantiFERON TB Gold In-tube or T-SPOT.
 - d. Please visit the [CDC's Yellow Book](#) for information related to international travel.
[CDC: August 30, 2022 - Annual Screening, Testing, and Education](#)
 - e. All U.S. health care personnel should be screened for TB upon hire (i.e., preplacement). The local health department should be notified **immediately** if TB disease is suspected. TB screening is a process that includes:
 - i. A baseline individual [TB risk assessment](#),
 - ii. [TB symptom](#) evaluation,
 - iii. A [TB test](#) (e.g., TB blood test or a TB skin test), and
 - iv. Additional evaluation for TB disease as needed.

- f. Annual TB testing of health care personnel is **not** recommended unless there is a known exposure or ongoing transmission at a healthcare facility.
- g. All health care personnel should receive **TB education** annually. TB education should include information on TB risk factors, the signs and symptoms of TB disease, and TB infection control policies and procedures. TB education materials can be found through [CDC](#), the [TB Centers of Excellence for Training, Education, and Medical Consultation](#), [NTCA](#), [State TB Programs](#), and the [Find TB Resources](#) website.
- h. Follow the CDC for updated information on TB Screening and Testing at this link: <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/testing/healthcareworkers.htm>
- i. **K-State 2025: All** newly admitted or readmitted students are **required** by Kansas Statute 65129e to complete TB screening the semester they are entering or re-entering K-State **prior** to attending classes. The TB screening consists of completing the Tuberculosis (TB) Questionnaire via the [myLafene portal + patient portal](#) under Forms. Additional screening may be required. **All physician assistant students are required to complete a TB test within 12 months of matriculation.**
- j. **Clinical Site Policy will supersede the above**
- o. **Varicella:** One of the following is required:
 - a. Documentation of two varicella (chickenpox) immunizations or proof of positive (immune) varicella titer (lab Report required).
 - b. In the absence of proof of either immunization or immunity, students must repeat the series.
- p. **Tdap:** Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis) one of the following is required:
 - a. Documentation of a Tdap (Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis)vaccination administered within the past 10 years
 - OR**
 - b. Documentation of a Tdap vaccination administered from any time **AND** a Td (Tetanus & Diphtheria) booster administered within the past 10 years
 - c. Renewal will be set for 10 years from the most recent vaccination. Upon renewal a Td booster is required.
- q. **Hepatitis B:**
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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.

- c. 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.”
- d. In brief: the CDC’s updated recommendations provide current medical information about managing students in health-related schools who have hepatitis B.

r. **Influenza:**

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

- s. **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. **11/24 CDC recommendations**

- a. *Traveling to Paraguay*

- b. *Traveling to Guatemala: Travel advisory: Level 1 - Practice Usual Precautions for Dengue*

- t. Immunization records must be submitted to Exxat compliance tracking system, NOT to the PA Program.
- u. 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.
- v. Students will be provided access to Exxat online files.
- w. Students are financially responsible for the cost of maintaining compliance with health, health insurance, and immunization requirements.
- x. Clinical sites may require additional vaccinations and documentation.
- y. 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:

- a. Current BLS Certification (will receive training/certification during the didactic year).

- b. Updated annual TB PPD or tine test (*2019 Recommendation - NOT routinely recommended - Annual evaluation by healthcare provider for symptom screening, and TB individual risk assessment will be acceptable. Clinical site policy will supersede this statement*).
- c. Blood-borne pathogen orientation course
- d. Current personal health insurance throughout the clinical year
- e. Annual influenza vaccination
- f. Annual Physical Examination

For more information on immunization of Health Care Workers go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/>

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

- z. 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.
- aa. 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.
- bb. 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)

- cc. 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 and Psychological Services (CAPS) provides free-of-charge counseling using a short-term model of care, which is a time-limited approach to therapy. Students can receive up to 8 sessions of individual therapy per semester and up to 24 sessions per year. CAPS also offers unlimited group therapy. For students who need or expect to have weekly or twice-weekly therapy sessions, CAPS is available to help connect them with resources and will provide and help facilitate referrals to off-campus mental health providers.
- dd. CAPS is open Mondays-Fridays 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 anytime by calling (785-532-6927)
- ee. Student Support and Accountability at <https://www.k-state.edu/student-support/> also provides support to the K-State Family by 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. It provides information on available resources, including a "Student of Concern" guide that assists faculty, students, and staff in helping those requiring assistance. A Student of Concern Form can be completed by faculty, staff, or students for concerns related to the individual's academic, personal, or physical concerns. Institutional personnel will use the information from this form to assist the reported student.

- ff. 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](#).
- gg. 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 A3.18,A3.19)

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