

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE *of* PHARMACY *and* HEALTH SCIENCES

Doctor of Physical Therapy Program Health Requirements

Welcome to the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program! You have already received information about health requirements through MCPHS Connect. By this time, you should have received information on how to set up your CastleBranch account. This is where you will submit all of the documentation for your health requirements.

The information listed below will help you better understand the requirements for your health compliance. Additional comments have been added for clarification. The items listed above are the health requirements that need to be completed and submitted to your CastleBranch account and approved by CastleBranch **prior to your arrival** to campus for new student orientation.

Measles, Mumps, Rubella You are required to submit proof of the required vaccinations below. If you are not able to access this documentation, results of blood tests will be accepted.

- Measles vaccinations (2 immunizations at least 4 weeks apart; First dose must be received on or after the student's 1st birthday) or laboratory evidence of immunity period.
- Mumps vaccinations (2 immunizations at least 4 weeks apart; First dose must be received on or after the student's 1st birthday) or laboratory evidence of immunity.
- Rubella vaccinations (2 immunizations at least 4 weeks apart; first dose must be received on or after the student's 1st birthday) or laboratory evidence immunity.

Tetanus Diphtheria Pertussis is good for 10 years. If your graduation year is after this health requirement expires (within 10 years), you may want to consider having this done prior to arriving to campus. Otherwise, you will need to have this completed during school. If this expires after your graduation date, you are all set with this requirement.

- Tetanus Diphtheria Pertussis vaccinations 1 dose of Tdap and either a history of Tdap primary series or age appropriate catch-up vaccination <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/catchup.html#note-tdap> Tdap given ≥ 7 years may be counted, but a dose at age 11-12 is recommended if Tdap was given earlier as part of a catch-up schedule. Td should be given if it has been ≥ 10 years since last Tdap.

Hepatitis B – you likely received this as an infant. We need proof (via a titer/blood test) that you are still immune to Hepatitis B. If you do find out from your blood test that you are no longer immune (a negative or unequivocal result), please speak with your health care provider about the need to:

1. Have a booster **and** repeat blood test
 2. Repeat the 3 shot series **and** repeat blood test (this can take 6-7 months and can be in process when you arrive to campus)
 3. Should you still test non-immune, we will need a letter from your healthcare provider. Please reach out to your Director or Associate Director of Clinical Education for more details and clarification
- Hepatitis B immunization series (3 doses) followed by laboratory evidence of immunity; or Heplisav-B vaccine (2 doses, first dose must be given on or after the student's 18th birthday, second dose must be given at least 28 days after the first dose) followed by laboratory evidence of immunity. Laboratory evidence of immunity alone is also acceptable.

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Varicella can be either your 2 doses of the vaccine, blood test showing immunity or documented history of the disease from your healthcare provider

- Varicella vaccinations (2 immunizations at least 4 weeks apart; first dose must be received on or after the student's 1st birthday); laboratory evidence of immunity; or physician diagnosis of varicella.

Two-Step Tuberculosis takes a few weeks to complete. You must receive a plant (usually in your forearm) with a follow up read 48 hours later. Wait 1-3 weeks in between and then a repeat plant and follow up read 48 hours later. Once you have this initial two-step (plant, read, 1-3 weeks in between, plant read) you will only need a one-step annual plant and read as long as your annual test is within one year of your 2nd plant of your initial two-step. There is no flexibility/grace period in these dates, so your attention to the expiration dates is very important. If you are even one day outside of the one year window, you must repeat the two-step.

As an alternative, you can have the QuantiFERON blood test. This requires a providers order and may not be covered by your health insurance. If you choose to have the blood test initially and then want to change the following year to the plant/read, the two-step test will be required.

- Two-step tuberculosis skin test (two tests within the last 12 months, completed 1-3 weeks apart) or Tuberculosis blood test within the past 12 months; followed by an annual 1 step TB test. If results are positive, a clear chest x-ray (with laboratory report or physician verification of results) or a physician letter verifying the student is symptom free is required each year.

Influenza (flu) is a requirement that you **do not** need prior to your arrival to campus. The university will have an influenza vaccine clinic in September and you can receive it then. If you do decide to have this done on your own, please be sure that you receive the current season of the vaccine. This will be required by October 1. If you plan to receive the vaccine after your arrival to campus, **DO NOT** sign and submit the declination form. Once that form is submitted, it is challenging from them to then open up a submission site for your influenza vaccine documentation.

- Annual influenza shot. (Must be obtained as soon as the vaccine for the annual flu season becomes available each fall).

Meningococcal is only required for students under 22 years of age.

- Meningococcal vaccination: 1 dose of MenACWY (formerly MCV4) received on or after the student's 16th birthday required only for students under the age of 22. Meningococcal B vaccine does not meet this requirement.

COVID-19

One of the following is required:

- 2-dose monovalent COVID-19 (Pfizer or Moderna) Vaccine OR
- 1- dose monovalent Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine OR
- 1-dose Bivalent COVID-19 (Pfizer or Moderna) OR
- If you have not received any COVID-19 vaccines, provide 1- dose updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 (Pfizer or Moderna) **dated after 9/11/23**

Documentation must include the vaccine manufacturer.

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The items listed above are the health requirements that need to be completed and submitted **prior to arriving** (with the exception of influenza) to Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences via your account within CastleBranch.

If any of your requirements (with the exception of influenza) have not been approved by CastleBranch (noted by a green checkmark), you are required to attend the Compliance Day session. Should you be unable to make this session, please email Dr. KH directly for an individualized appointment.