

Policy - Student Health

Origin Date: February 20, 2014

Last Evaluated: April 2023

Responsible Party: Program Director

Minimum Review Frequency: Annually

Approving Body: Principal Faculty

DPAS Associated Forms:

Verification of Health Information and Immunization Form
Immunization Release of Information Form
Consent to Treat Form
HIPAA Consent Form
DPAS Influenza Vaccine Exemption Request Form
COVID-19 Exemption Request Process
COVID-19 Religious Exemption Request Form

ARC-PA Associated Standards:

- **A1.04** – The sponsoring institution *must* provide academic support and *student services* to PA students that are *equivalent* to those services provided to other *comparable* students of the institution.
- **A3.07** - The program *must* define, publish, make *readily* available and consistently apply:
 - a) a policy on immunization and health screening of students. Such policy *must* 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.
- **A3.09** – The program *must* define, publish, make *readily available* and consistently apply policies that preclude *principal faculty*, the program director and the *medical director* from participating as health care providers for students in the program, except in an emergency situation.
- **A3.17** - Student academic records kept by the sponsoring institution or program, in paper or electronic format, *must* be readily accessible to authorized program personnel and *must* include documentation:
 - (b) that the student has met institution and program health screening and immunization requirements.
- **A3.19** - 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 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.

Background and Purpose

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

Policy Statement

1. 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.
2. 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).
3. The following health requirements are mandatory prior to any experiential education course at off-site facilities. The immunization requirements must be fully complied with in the first 30 days post matriculation, or the student will be withdrawn from classes without credit.
 - **Tuberculosis:** One of the following completed within the past 12 months is required:
 - 2 step TB skin test (administered 1-3 weeks apart)
 - OR
 - QuantiFERON Gold blood test (lab report required)
 - OR
 - If positive results, submit a clear chest x-ray (lab report required)
 - **Immunizations:** Students must be current on all required immunizations. Either record of immunization or serologic proof of immunity must be provided for all listed conditions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for health care personnel, to include, but may not be limited to:
 - Hepatitis B: BOTH of the following are required:
 - 3 vaccinations
 - AND
 - A positive antibody titer after 6-8 weeks (lab report required)If your titer was negative or equivocal, you must repeat the series and provide a 2nd titer.
 - Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR): One of the following is required:
 - 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 after 6-8 weeks.
 - Varicella: One of the following is required:
 - 2 vaccinations
 - OR
 - Positive antibody titer (lab report required) If your titer was negative or equivocal, you 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.

- **Influenza:** Students will be required to obtain influenza immunization annually while enrolled in the 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/DCE to determine if any additional precautions are necessary.
 - **COVID-19 Vaccine:** High Point University strongly encourages, but does not require, students to receive the COVID-19 Vaccine. Students, without an approved exemption, who choose not to receive this vaccine must understand that they may not be allowed to participate in Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences, thus delaying or preventing graduation, as the vaccine is required by clinical sites.
 - **Vaccine Exemptions:** Students with underlying health conditions or sincerely held religious beliefs may request exemption from the COVID-19 and/or Influenza vaccine.
 - **COVID-19 Vaccine Religious Exemption:** Students requesting religious exemption from the COVID-19 vaccine should follow the process outlined by the Office of the Provost in the COVID-19 Religious Exemption Request Process document and submit the COVID-19 Vaccination Religious Exemption Form to the Provost for approval.
 - **COVID-19 Vaccine Medical Exemption:** Students requesting medical exemption from the COVID-19 vaccine should submit a letter to the Provost, that is signed and dated by a licensed medical provider who is involved with that student's medical care indicating the medical reason for the requested exemption, for approval.
 - **Influenza Vaccine Medical or Religious Exemption:** Students requesting medical or religious exemption from the Influenza Vaccine should complete the DPAS Influenza Exemption Request Form and submit it to the Department Chair for approval.
4. Historical documentation without primary source evidence of tuberculosis screening, immunizations and/or serologic proof of immunity will not satisfy the program's documentation requirements.
- The following qualify as legitimate proof of immunization/TB testing status:
 - Copies of the applicant's medical record(s) on which administration and results of tuberculosis screening data is recorded.
 - Copies of the applicant's medical record(s) on which administration of the immunization series is documented by the immunization provider (including immunization cards signed by the administering health care professional/agency).
 - Copies of the laboratory report(s) documenting results of serologic testing for immunity (antibody test results).
 - Copies of the applicant's medical record(s) or a letter from the applicant's health care provider documenting immunization non-conversion and explaining the process by which that conclusion was reached.
5. Immunization records and approved exemptions must be submitted to the CastleBranch compliance tracking system, **NOT to the Department of Physician Assistant Studies.**
6. The PA program will access CastleBranch to ensure completion of required immunizations and TB screening of all students.
7. Students are required to monitor their CastleBranch account to ensure that all requirements are kept up to date.

8. Program Director, principal program faculty, medical director, or program staff **WILL NOT** participate as health care providers for students enrolled in the program and **WILL NOT** have access to any student health information other than that defined in this policy.

Student Insurance through High Point University

Students without primary health insurance may purchase a health insurance plan offered by High Point University through partnership with United Healthcare/Student Resources, one of the largest student health insurance providers in the United States.

As a condition of enrollment students are required to maintain health insurance and provide evidence of a primary insurance policy. Students without primary health insurance are required to enroll and purchase the health insurance plan offered by High Point University. Our plan is the United Healthcare Choice Plus policy. Detailed information about the plan is available at www.uhcsr.com/highpoint.

ELECTING TO PURCHASE THE STUDENT HEALTH PLAN

Students enrolled in Physician Assistant Studies must complete a paper waiver form in order to accept participation or to waive their participation in the United Healthcare Choice Plus plan offered through High Point University. Paper waiver forms can be found in the Graduate - Operations Office, Office of Student Accounts or by accessing the form online at: <http://www.highpoint.edu/studentaccounts/student-insurance/>

Approved By: Principal Faculty

Modified:

February 5, 2015

April 12, 2016: updated to be consistent with revised Health Information and Immunization forms (9.16.15)

April 2017, April 2018,

April 2020: Updated ARC-PA Standards

April 2021

April 2022: Updated COVID-19 vaccine guidelines

Next Review: Spring 2024