TTUHSC Health Surveillance Program

Students

I. Tuberculosis Surveillance


(a) Pre-Matriculation Requirements

(1) All students who attend school at TTUHSC, with the exception of students identified as having no direct patient care, should have documentation of a TB skin test (TST) or IGRA testing having been performed within the 6 months, regardless of a history of BCG vaccine. The only exceptions are those students who only perform clinicals at their place of employment. The student may follow their employer policies and procedures.

(2) Students with a documented history of a positive TB skin test or IGRA testing shall provide a report from a physician indicating a chest x-ray taken within the previous 6 months was negative for TB or must have a chest x-ray performed and read before starting any patient related activities. An annual TB questionnaire must also be completed.

(b) Annual Requirements

(1) All students who attend school at TTUHSC, with the exception of students identified as having no direct patient care, should have an updated TB skin test (TST) annually. Administration location of the TB skin test (TST) will be coordinated through the Office of Institutional Health and students will be notified through their program where to go. The only exceptions are those students who only perform clinicals at their place of employment. The student may follow their employer’s policy and procedures.

(2) All students that newly convert with their annual TB skin test (TST) or IGRA screening will be required to have one chest x-ray performed and will be required to complete the annual TB screening questionnaire with a follow up chest x-ray as indicated by the responses noted on the annual TB questionnaire.

a) New converters on a TB skin test (TST) or positive IGRA testing results should be referred to the Texas Department of State Health Services for follow up including but not limited to the treatment of Latent Tuberculosis. Any follow up or treatment will be coordinated and documented by the local health departments or their treating physician.

(3) Annual TB screening will be coordinated through the Office of Institutional Health for all schools on all campuses.

(c) Cost Responsibilities

(1) The cost of all pre-matriculation requirements will be borne by the student.

(2) Costs for annual TB skin tests will be covered through the Screening and Immunization Fee.

(3) If a student converts to a positive TB skin test (TST) with an annual evaluation, the chest x-ray will be performed through student health services on each campus and will be paid for by the Medical Service Fee or as otherwise specified by the Office of Institutional Health.
(d) Record Maintenance

Pre-Matriculation and Annual records shall be received, validated, and maintained by the Office of Institutional Health for all schools and all campuses.

II. Immunizations

Immunization recommendations are based on regulations, guidelines and recommendations available from the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP). See Attachment E - CDC Healthcare Personnel Vaccination Recommendations (2018).

(a) Pre-Matriculation Requirements

(1) All TTUHSC students (undergraduate and graduate), with the exception of students identified as having no direct patient care, should have received recommended immunizations and lab work specific to their program submitted prior to matriculation (by assigned deadline). All immunizations and lab work must be in compliance with the “Healthcare Personnel Vaccination Recommendations”.

(b) Annual Requirements

(1) Annual Flu vaccine will be offered to all TTUHSC students with direct patient care.

(2) TD/TDAP boosters will be given based on expiration date of matriculating vaccine.

(c) Cost Responsibilities

(1) The cost of all pre-matriculation immunizations/testing will be borne by the student.

(2) Cost for updated the TD/TDAP will be covered through the Screening and Immunization student fee.

(3) Cost of Flu vaccine will be covered through the Screening and Immunization Fee.

(4) If students are required by affiliates to have TB testing, immunizations, or titer data beyond the recommended CDC guidelines, the student will bear the cost of those requirements.

(d) Record Maintenance

Pre-Matriculation and Annual records shall be received, validated, and maintained by the Office of Institutional Health for all schools and all campuses.

III. Exposure Management

Institutional management of exposure to: (1) blood-borne pathogens, (2) body fluids and, (3) other miscellaneous exposures are based on regulations, guidelines and recommendations available from the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

(a) Pre-Exposure Requirements

(1) All students in programs with direct patient care should have either received their Hepatitis B series, be in the process of completing the Hepatitis B series, or have a documented positive Hepatitis B antibody prior to clinical rotations.
(2) All students should have documentation of having received a onetime adult dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) and a current Tetanus Diphtheria.

(b) Post-Exposure Requirements

(1) Reporting

Students who have a known or suspected exposure to an infectious disease during the performance of an academic responsibility shall report that incident promptly to their immediate supervisor, fill out a “Non Employee Injury/Incident Report”, and seek immediate care from the Health Surveillance Unit on each campus and coordinate all follow-up with the Office of Institutional Health.

(2) Exposure Investigation and Management:

Exposure investigation and appropriate management (if indicated) including, medication administration, vaccination, blood work, and counseling shall be provided to students based on orders and recommendations from the Office of Institutional Health. This applies to all schools and all campuses.

(c) Cost Responsibility

(1) Costs for exposure investigation and prophylaxis post exposure, and will be handled through the Office of Institutional Health. All exposure handled through a non-TTUHSC entity will be billed through the students insurance and the Screening and Immunization Fee will cover any remaining charges.

(2) Students who graduate prior to the completion of any exposure follow-up will be responsible for completing the follow-up.

(d) Record Maintenance

All records concerning student exposure will be maintained in the Office of Institutional Health for all schools and all campuses.