

A Welcome Message from the University Health Service to UK HealthCare Volunteers, Observers, and Students

Compliance with Employee Health Program Requirements

Welcome to UK HealthCare and thank you for participating in our important mission. Our Employee Health Policy serves to protect you as well as our patients. Working in a healthcare facility involves certain health risks. Specific precautions are taken to minimize those risks. Frequent hand washing, use of appropriate personal protective equipment, screening for tuberculosis, and vaccinations are essential safeguards for protection of personnel and patients. The remainder of this letter describes what is required for you to participate within a UK HealthCare program. The information below outlines the required vaccinations and health screenings as well as acceptable forms of documentation.

Important things to consider as you review this document:

*1) **ALL Observers from outside the University of Kentucky are NOT eligible for services at the University Health Service.** See the process information for "Observation and Learning Experience" <https://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/ole>

• 2) All documentation must be in the English language to be accepted.

• 3) If there is a medical or religious reason that you cannot receive a required vaccine, you must submit a written declination request and provide supporting documentation.

• 4) If you are currently participating in the UK HealthCare Employee Health program and are up-to-date with all requirements, you may simply submit the proof of compliance you received from UK HealthCare Employee Health (Birth Month Compliance Letter) to satisfy all requirements related to this letter.

MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella)

Proof of immunity to rubeola, mumps, and rubella by one of the following:

- Documentation of two (2) doses of MMR vaccines
 - Positive protective rubeola, mumps, and rubella antibody titers
- * If any titer (lab test for immunity) is negative, you will be required to receive booster dose(s) of the MMR vaccine, if there are no records of prior MMR vaccinations.

Hepatitis B

Accidental exposure to infectious body fluids can occur in healthcare environments. Hepatitis B vaccine is strongly recommended, but not required. If you had a Hepatitis B vaccine series in the past, please provide documentation for all doses or a positive HBV (hepatitis B virus) titer.

Tuberculosis Screening

You must have proof of a Tuberculosis (TB) test within the past 12 months to establish a baseline. Either the TB Skin Test (TST) **2-step or IGRA** blood draw documentation must be submitted. If the test is positive, you may speak with a health provider regarding the implications and accuracy of the result.

TST TB Two-step documentation MUST include the following:

- Date given, date read, and reading millimeters
- Signature of the clinician who performed and read of the test

*If you have a **positive skin test** or **positive blood draw (IGRA)**, include physician documentation of the positive test and a negative chest x-ray report.

*If you have a history of a **prior positive TB test**, we will need all documentation about that test, follow-up evaluations you had (including chest x-rays) and any treatment received.

*If you received the **BCG vaccine** as a child, the skin test could cause a false positive.

Seasonal Influenza Vaccination

All personnel, including observers, students and volunteers, located in the hospital or a patient care facility between October 1 and March 31 of the current year are required to have the season influenza vaccination for that year. Due to low side-effects and high level of safety (including safety during all trimesters of pregnancy and for those with an egg allergy), the receipt of the quadrivalent **Recombinant Influenza Vaccine (RIV4)** formulation is widely recommended. Surface protein RIV4 does not contain the influenza virus and cannot cause influenza.

COVID-19 Vaccination

As of August 1, UK HealthCare is restructuring its approach to COVID vaccination for employees, UK students and non-UK students in healthcare and volunteers. Although highly recommended and part of quality reporting, it is no longer mandated at this time. Booster doses are not required.

Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis)

Documentation of one (1) Tdap vaccine.

- Tdap vaccine is specific to adolescents and adults for protection against pertussis, tetanus, and diphtheria
- Tdap is different from the regular tetanus (Td) vaccine and from the childhood DTap vaccine

Varicella (Chickenpox)

Proof of immunity to varicella by one of the following:

- Documentation of **two (2) doses** of varicella vaccine
- Positive varicella antibody titer

*If your titer is negative, you will be required to receive 2 doses of the vaccine at the recommended intervals.