Health and Immunization Documentation

[ A 3.07: The program must have and implement a policy on immunization of students and such policy must be based on current Centers for Disease Control recommendations for health care professionals.  
A 3.19: Student files kept by the program must include documentation: b) that the student has met institution and program health screening and immunization requirements 
A 3.21: 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 tuberculosis screening results which may be maintained and released with written permission from the student.]

PA Studies students, staff, and faculty who have patient contact must show documentation of immunization against a number of vaccine-preventable diseases before participating in the academic programs of the University of Saint Joseph PA Studies Program.

Prior to matriculation, every student must submit appropriate paperwork proving immunization and a recent physical exam to the University of Saint Joseph Health Services Office. Should a student need a form please contact the Physician Assistant Studies Program Office. Please be aware that health science students do not qualify for certain health related exemptions that may be an option for non-health science students as it relates to Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) and Varicella. It is necessary for PA Studies students to either provide evidence of vaccination against these diseases or titers reflective of immunity.

Proof of the following are required:

- **Varicella (Chicken Pox)**
  - positive titer documenting immunity
  - or proof of two vaccinations, 4 weeks apart

- **PPD test within the past year**
  - “2 step” PPD with a distinct second PPD administered 1-3 weeks after the first PPD
  - Positive PPD result may require additional testing such as chest x-ray or serologic testing, at discretion of USJ Health Services
    - Students determined to have active disease will not be permitted to matriculate until treated and cleared by a health care provider

- **Tdap (Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis)**
  - Booster must have been within ten years of anticipated PA Program graduation
  - Td is not a sufficient replacement for Tdap.

- **Influenza vaccine for the current season of matriculation**
  - Students who qualify for a medical exemption for the influenza vaccine are subject to school and clinical facility procedures such as being mandated to wear a facial mask at all times during flu season.
  - Students must receive annual influenza vaccinations while matriculated, or follow guidelines as noted above

- **Hepatitis B**
  - Documentation of series completion, 3 doses (0, 1 and 6 months)
  - If vaccination history is unavailable or unclear, titers and revaccination may be required at the discretion of USJ Health Services
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- **MMR (Rubella, Rubeola, Mumps)**
  - Vaccine (2 doses)
    - Date of birth exemptions are not allowed for health science students.
      - The first dose must have been received at 12 months of age or later and the second must have been received at least 28 days after the first and after 1990
    - OR
      - positive antibody titers for all three diseases
      - All non-immune MMR titers must be followed by booster vaccination.
- **Physical examination** within one year of matriculation and updated every five years.
- **Evidence of health insurance:** Students must provide proof of their own health insurance coverage prior to matriculation.

Documentation may be in the form of written immunization records, copies of medical records containing such data, lab reports of titer results, or authentication by a health care provider. In case of the latter, an original signature accompanied by the provider’s printed name, credentials, address, and telephone number is required.

All immunizations and proof of same must be consistent with The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC-P) most up-to-date standards.

Note: All students must meet the USJ health services and PA Studies Program health requirements. In addition, students may need to meet additional or different requirements of a facility/agency in which they are attending a supervised clinical practice experience, at their own expense. Students may be requested to supply a clinical agency with evidence of health-related documentation. In some cases the Director of Clinical Education is required to provide documentation to a facility indicating a student has met the organization’s health requirements. To do so, the student must also submit a Health Records Release Form, indicating they permit the PA Studies program to release their immunization information to perspective clinical sites. A students who fails to provide acceptable documentation of the above will not be permitted to have any patient interactions sponsored by the University. This can result in course failures, the student not graduating, having a delay in graduation.

Your immunization profile must be current at all times. If, during the year your profile lapses, you must update it before enrolling in the next semester, beginning or continuing clinical experiences. As stated above, the requirements for PPD skin test and influenza vaccine are on an annual basis.

Students are strongly encouraged but not required to obtain meningococcal vaccination prior to matriculation if not having already been vaccinated.

Students are required to have health insurance that covers emergency care in the state of Connecticut while enrolled in the USJ PA Studies Program.