

Sample Hospital Immunization Policy

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The following sample immunization policy for active, courtesy, and associate house staff and clinical fellows, developed and approved by the Medical Board of The Johns Hopkins Hospital, was provided by Jay Frerotte, manager of safety administration, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. The sample policy may be used by health care facilities to help develop immunization policies for new appointees to the medical staff and for current hospital staff.

IMMUNIZATION POLICY FOR ACTIVE, COURTESY, AND ASSOCIATE HOUSE STAFF AND CLINICAL FELLOWS

PURPOSE

To reduce the risk of hospital personnel acting as vectors of disease to patients, and to provide a service to the individual staff member, these policies have been established. All members of the medical staff must present acceptable documentation of immunity status or submit to testing of immunity status within 90 days of the effective date of their medical staff appointment.

POLICY

New appointees to the medical staff -

1. **Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis:** Determination of immunity and requirement for immunization for rubeola will be according to the following table:

Antibody titers positive: No vaccinations.

Antibody titers negative: Two vaccinations required, separated by 90 days.

2. **Measles, Mumps and Rubella:** All individuals will be assessed for immunity against measles, mumps and rubella.

Antibody titers positive: No vaccinations.

Antibody titers negative: Two vaccinations recommended, separated by 90 days.

3. **Hepatitis B:** Staff, who give no history of previous hepatitis B or immunization for hepatitis B, will be offered the three-part immunization for hepatitis B without being screened for antibodies beforehand. In no case, however, will hepatitis B immunity or vaccination be required in order to be granted privileges. In other words, immunization for hepatitis B is optional, not mandatory. Nevertheless, any

- individual who is not immune based on antibody testing and chooses not to be vaccinated must sign a statement indicating refusal.
4. **Tuberculosis:** For those whose PPD is found to be positive, a chest X-ray within 3 months and referral to a physician for assessment and clearance will be required before final staff privileges can be granted. For those individuals with previous history of positive PPD, the report of a chest X-ray taken after the finding of positive PPD which indicates no evidence of active tuberculosis must be provided. Thereafter, no further evaluation is required in the absence of symptoms of tuberculosis.
 5. **Varicella:** All individuals must provide documented immunity against varicella zoster virus (VZV).

Antibody titers positive: No vaccinations.

Antibody titers negative: Immunization is required.

The names of those individuals unable to be vaccinated will be transmitted by Occupational Health Services to Infection Control and Epidemiology of the Johns Hopkins Hospital to be kept on file in case of an exposure. Those medical staff members who do not begin the vaccination schedule or receive a medical exception within 90 days of appointment will have their privileges suspended until they meet this requirement.

Current hospital staff -

All current appointees will go through the procedures listed above for "New Hires" at this time for the continuation of staff privileges.