

**Berkshire Community College  
Physical Therapist Assistant  
Health and Immunization**

Immunization Requirements: Students entering BCC's Physical Therapist Assistant program are required to follow the immunization policy for BCC health students and clinical facility requirements. Students must submit proof of compliance with immunizations by August 1<sup>st</sup> for fall admission. Immunization information may be shared with the Dean of Nursing, Health and Wellness, PTA Program Coordinator, Clinical Education Coordinator and contracted agencies to allow for clinical experiences.

**MANDATORY HEALTH REQUIREMENTS**

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| <b>Hepatitis B</b>                     | <p>Proof of positive titer that demonstrates immunity.<br/><i>Hepatitis B surface antibody HBsAB documentation is required.</i></p> <p>If immunity not seen:<br/>Complete: 3-series dose of Hepatitis B vaccine on a 0, 1- and 6-month schedule <u>OR</u><br/>2-series dose of Heplisav-B on a 0 and 1-month schedule may be completed.<br/>Please note: The Hep B series may take up to six months to complete. Students should plan accordingly.</p>  |
| <b>TDaP</b>                            | T-dap vaccine within 10 years (and every 10 years).   |
| <b>MMR</b>                             | <p>Titer with laboratory evidence of immunity.</p> <p>If immunity not seen, 2-series dose of MMR vaccine.</p>   |
| <b>Varicella</b>                       | <p>Titer with laboratory evidence of immunity.</p> <p>If immunity not seen, 2-dose series of Varicella vaccine.</p>   |
| <b>TB</b>                              | <p>Documentation of negative test: Either test below is acceptable.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. T-Spot or Quantiferon bloodwork results. <i>(Valid for 10 years unless affirmative answers on annual "TB" interview form, then testing may be repeated)</i></li> <li>2. Tuberculin Skin Testing report. <i>(Valid for 1 year)</i></li> </ol>  |
| <b>Influenza Vaccine</b>               | <p>During regular flu season (October – March). Some clinical sites may require year-round vaccination. Declination is only allowed if there is documented allergy and is determined on a case by case basis by the clinical sites.</p>   |
| <b>Meningococcal</b>                   | <p>1 dose: 1 dose MenACWY (formerly MCV<sub>4</sub>) required for all full-time students ≤ 21 years of age. The dose of MenACWY vaccine must have been received on or after the student's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. Doses received at younger ages do not count towards this requirement. Students may decline the MenACWY vaccine after they have read and signed the <u>MDPH Meningococcal Information and Waiver Form</u> provided by their institution. The Meningococcal B vaccine is not required and does not meet this requirement.</p> |
| <b>Covid Vaccine<br/>Covid Booster</b> | <p>Covid vaccine is HIGHLY recommended for ALL clinical sites.<br/>Long-term care sites may also require Covid boosters per Massachusetts State regulations. Waivers may be a requirement of each clinical site.</p>  |

BCC Immunization policy developed according to the MDPH Immunization Program 2025 – 2026 School Year and per requirements of clinical sites.

**Verification of Student Health History and Physical Exam**

In addition to the Mandatory Immunization Requirements, all students enrolled in the PTA program are required to have the Verification of Student Health History and Physical Exam report completed by their health care provider. The signed Verification form must be current.

**Waiver**

If a student is unable to receive an immunization due to medical reasons, they must discuss a medical waiver with the Program Coordinator and provide a doctor's notice. If a medical waiver is granted by the clinical facilities, documentation must be filed in the Immunization and Medical Records Office. It is also highly recommended that these students have blood testing done to show possible immunity. Both medical exemptions and declinations must be renewed on the appropriate forms annually. If a student cannot complete clinical due to immunization requirements, then he/she/they cannot complete the course.

**Drug Screening**

Please be advised that students may be required by the placement affiliate agency to undergo and pass a drug-screening analysis in order to be eligible. Students who either fail to pass, or refuse to submit to a drug-screening analysis will be deemed ineligible for clinical placement, which will affect their status in the program.

**Failure to Comply**

A student will not be allowed to participate in the clinical experience without all health requirements fully complete.

Submit requirements to:

Nursing, Health and Wellness Immunization and Medical Records Office  
Hawthorne Building – Office #323  
Berkshire Community College Main Campus  
Telephone: 413-236-4609  
Fax: 800-724-9943  
[medicalrecords@berkshirecc.edu](mailto:medicalrecords@berkshirecc.edu)