



Master of Physician Assistant Studies

Student Health & Immunizations

- **Origin Date:** 8/15/2017
- **Last Evaluated:** 6/2021
- **Responsible Party:** Program Director
- **Minimum Review Frequency:** Annually
- **Approving Body:** Principal Faculty

Background and Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to describe student and program responsibilities as it relates to student health and the availability of health services for students enrolled in the MPAS program.

Financial Responsibility

1. All students are responsible for obtaining their own health insurance throughout the duration of the MPAS program and must provide proof of insurance prior to program matriculation.
 - a. Students will not be allowed to advance in the program without continuous health insurance coverage.
 - b. Insurance offered by the University may be purchased through Arthur J Gallagher & company – United Health Care Insurance
 - i. <https://www.gallagherstudent.com/students/student-home.php?idField=1184&KosterWebSID=l84sfde461jovllre5k2q5qbg1>
2. Students are financially responsible for all costs associated with health care services they may require while enrolled in the MPAS program. This may include any health care services required as a result of participation in program activities and supervised clinical practice experiences. This includes, but is not limited to: TB testing, immunizations, and infection/pathogen exposure evaluation and treatment.

Health Requirements and Immunizations

1. All students must obtain immunizations in accordance with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Recommended Vaccines for Healthcare Workers.
 - a. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/hcw.html>

2. Students must remain current with all required immunizations and health requirements. Failure to remain current will prohibit students from participating in didactic courses and clinical rotations.
3. The following health requirements and immunizations are required for participation in the MPAS program:
 - a. **TB (Tuberculosis)**
 - i. Negative 2-step TB skin test (administered 1-3 weeks apart)
OR
 - ii. Negative blood test (QuantiFERON, T-SPOT, IGRA)
OR
 - iii. If positive results, submit clear chest x-ray within 5 years (report required)
 - iv. Annual renewal – 1 year from submission date
 1. Students will be required to submit the following results annually while enrolled in the MPAS program”
 - a. Negative 1 step test **or**
 - b. Negative blood test.
 - c. If previous positive results, submit symptom free TB questionnaire.
 - b. **Hepatitis B**
 - i. 3 vaccination series or a positive antibody titer
 1. Obtain a 3-dose series (dose #1 now, #2 in 1 month, #3 approximately 5 months after #2)
 - a. Or a 2-dose series of Heplisav-B, with the doses separated by at least 4 weeks.
 2. Obtain anti-HBs serologic test 1-2 months after the final dose.
 - ii. If titer was negative, 1 booster shot is required.
 - c. **Measles, Mumps, & Rubella (MMR)**
 - i. 2 vaccinations: The first vaccination **MUST** be administered **AFTER** the age of 1 regardless of vaccination type. Vaccinations can be a combined MMR vaccination, however if individualized vaccinations are submitted, you **MUST** submit 2 vaccinations for Mumps and Measles and 1 vaccination for Rubella
OR
 - ii. Positive antibody titer (lab report required) for all 3 components. If your titer was negative or equivocal, you must receive 1 booster vaccine (administered after your titer) and provide a 2nd titer.
 - d. **Varicella**
 - i. 2 vaccinations (4 weeks part)
OR
 - ii. Positive antibody titer (lab report required) If your titer was negative or equivocal, you must repeat the series.
 - e. **Tdap (Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis): One of the following is required:**
 - i. Documentation of a Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria & Pertussis) vaccination administered within the past 10 years
OR
 - ii. Documentation of a Tdap vaccination administered from any time **AND** a Td (Tetanus & Diphtheria) booster administered within the past 10 years
 - iii. Renewal will be set for 10 years from the most recent vaccination. Upon renewal, a Td booster is required.
 - f. **Meningitis**

- i. Documentation of vaccine required.
 - ii. Declination waivers will not be accepted.
 - g. **Influenza:**
 - i. Students will be required to obtain influenza immunization annually while enrolled in the program.
 - h. **Other Immunizations:** Students may occasionally be involved in patient care activities that require additional immunizations or disease prophylaxis
 - i. COVID-19
 - 1. Students are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to receive the COVID-19 vaccination prior to enrolling in the program. Several clinical affiliates require verification of COVID-19 vaccination prior to beginning clinical rotations. Lack of this vaccination may delay site placement.
4. Immunization records must be submitted to the CastleBranch compliance tracking system and NOT forwarded directly to the MPAS program.
 - a. The PA program will access CastleBranch to ensure completion of required immunizations and TB screening of all students.
 5. Students must also provide evidence of immunizations and/or proof of immunity directly to Student Health Services.
 - a. The State University System of Florida/FGCU requires all students born AFTER 12/31/1956 to upload documented vaccine proof or lab immunity to MMRs, (Measles (Rubeola) Mumps and German Measles (Rubella) to their SHS Portal.
 6. Clinical rotation sites may require additional verifications of immunity. Therefore, students may also be required to repeat testing and/or provide proof of immunity to clinical sites as per their policies.

Student Health

1. Student Health services are available on-campus to all MPAS students. Detailed information regarding student health services, including hours of operation, can be found at their website <https://www.fgcu.edu/studentlife/studenthealth/>
2. Student Health Center is located on campus.
 - a. Routine medical care, physical examinations, immunizations, and referrals for specialty care can be performed on-site.
 - b. Current Hours of Operation: 8:15AM-4:45PM Monday – Thursday; 9:00AM-4:45PM Friday.
 - c. After Hours Care: The FGCU student health center offers an afterhours medical advice call line at 239-590-7966 and a mental health professional call line through CAPS at 239-745-3277. Students can obtain medical care after hours from one of the local urgent care centers. A list of local centers can be found at <https://www.fgcu.edu/studentlife/studenthealth/afterhourscare>
 - d. Emergencies: Dial 911 or report to a local hospital emergency department.
3. The program faculty and medical director cannot participate as a health care providers for students enrolled in the program.
 - a. If the MPAS medical director, program director or faculty are providing health care services at FGCU Student Health Center, they are not to treat MPAS students unless

in emergency situations. MPAS students will be evaluated and treated by alternate providers on site.

4. No student health information, other than immunization verifications, will be maintained in MPAS program student files. Program faculty will not access any student health information other than immunization verifications.

ARC-PA Associated Standards:

- A1.04 PA students must be provided student health services equivalent to those services provided other comparable students
- A3.07 The program must define, publish, make readily available and consistently apply:
 - a) a policy on immunization and health screening of students. Such policy must be based on the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for health professionals and state specific mandates.
 - b) written travel health policies based on then current CDC recommendations for international travel for programs offering elective international curricular components.
- A3.09 The program must define, publish, make readily available and consistently apply policies that preclude principal faculty, the program director and the medical director from participating as health care providers for students in the program, except in an emergency situation.
- A3.17 Student academic records kept by the sponsoring institution or program, in paper or electronic format, must be readily accessible to authorized program personnel and must include documentation:
 - (b) that the student has met institution and program health screening and immunization requirements.
- A3.19 - 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 screening results which may be maintained and released with written permission from the student.

Next Review: 6/2022

Last Modified:

Results of modifications:

- 6/2021 Updated to ARC-PA 5th Standards including Financial Responsibilities and COVID-19 immunizations