



Policy Title:

Student Health Screening and Immunization Policy

Policy Identifier:

A3.09a

Prepared by: PA Program Faculty	Creation Date: 01/01/2026
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Category: Health and Safety Policies	

ARC-PA Standards

A3.09a

Scope

University of South Carolina School of Medicine Columbia (USC SOMC) PA students.

Policy Statement

Students are required to provide, prior to matriculation, a current medical history, the results of a physical examination, and immunization data on forms provided by the USC SOMC. Once accepted, students will receive immunization requirements from the Student Health Nurse, including details on meeting the requirements and verification procedures. Students will not be eligible for course registration or allowed to attend orientation if this requirement is not met.

This policy ensures compliance with current CDC recommendations for healthcare professionals and applicable state and institutional health mandates. Students participating in international travel as part of the program curriculum are also required to meet CDC and destination-specific immunization and health screening requirements prior to travel.

Reason for Policy

To ensure compliance with ARC-PA Standard A3.09a by establishing and publishing policies for the minimum health and immunization requirements of all PA students. This policy supports student health, patient safety, and compliance with clinical site requirements and public health standards.

Definitions

- **CDC:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. federal agency providing national health guidelines and vaccination recommendations.
- **Health Screening:** Medical evaluation, including physical examination and tuberculosis



(TB) testing, required for participation in the PA program.

Procedures

1. Pre-Matriculation Health Requirements

- Prior to matriculation, students must submit a complete health form documenting:
 - Current medical history and results of a physical examination.
 - Documentation of required immunizations or proof of immunity (titers).
- Verification of health and immunization records will be conducted by the USC SOMC Student Health Nurse in coordination with the PA Program.
- Students will not be permitted to register for courses or attend orientation until all health and immunization requirements are verified.

2. Required Immunizations and Screenings

Students must provide documentation of the following required immunizations or proof of immunity consistent with CDC guidelines for healthcare professionals:

1. Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR): Two doses of the MMR vaccine or proof of immunity via titers.
2. Varicella (Chickenpox): Two doses of the Varicella vaccine or proof of immunity via titers.
3. Hepatitis B: Three doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine series and a positive Hepatitis B surface antibody titer.
4. Tuberculosis (TB) Screening: Two-step PPD test.
5. Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap): Current immunization within the past ten (10) years.
6. Influenza: Annual influenza vaccination.
7. COVID-19 (Optional): Students who have received a COVID-19 vaccination may submit documentation for recordkeeping purposes; it is not required.
8. Polio: Complete 3-dose series if incompletely vaccinated. Self-report of previous doses acceptable

3. Maintenance of Compliance

- Students are responsible for maintaining current immunization status throughout the program.
- Failure to keep or update documentation may lead to suspension from clinical activities or an administrative hold on enrollment.

4. Confidentiality and Recordkeeping

- All student health information and immunization records will be maintained confidentially in accordance with university policy, state law, and federal privacy regulations (FERPA and HIPAA, as applicable).
- Records are retained by the Student Health Service and may be shared with clinical sites only as required for placement compliance.

Contacts

Student Health Nurse
USC SOMC



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History

Date of Change	Change
01/01/2026	Policy drafted into new template