

Vaccination Compliance Policy for International Students

Section 1: State Mandated Requirements

State health requirements mandate that all international students have 2-MMR vaccinations and are screened for Tuberculosis (TB). These requirements are in place to protect students from disease outbreak and to ensure that optimal health is maintained while acquiring an education at any institution of higher education.

A. **Mycobacterium Tuberculosis (TB)**

Mycobacterium Tuberculosis is a highly contagious and serious illness that poses a great threat to all students of Arkansas Tech University, domestic and international. The Arkansas Department of Health made changes to the regulations surrounding screenings for foreign-born university and college students in June 2012. According to these regulations, all foreign-born students must undergo either a T-spot or Quantiferon Gold blood test to determine if there is evidence of current infection or recent exposure of M.Tuberculosis. The PPD (Mantoux Skin Test) is no longer acceptable. The Health and Wellness Center and the International and Multicultural Student Services Office (IMSSO) have collaborated to create a proposed University policy in order to meet the regulations of the state and to keep the students of Arkansas Tech University healthy.

B. **Measles, Mumps, and Rubella**

Measles, mumps, and rubella are highly contagious viral illnesses that are capable of producing epidemics in various populations. Immunizations against measles, mumps, and rubella have resulted in dramatic decrease in the incidence of these diseases in Arkansas. However, these diseases continue to occur in college and university settings. A state requirement that students furnish proof that they have immunity against certain communicable diseases will reduce the potential for an outbreak of these diseases. This regulation protects all of the students at Arkansas Tech University as well as the surrounding community. Anyone born after January 1, 1957, who does not have a history of physician-diagnosed measles, mumps, or rubella or serologic confirmation of immunity, must receive two doses of Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine for maximum protection. The first dose should be given at 12-15 months of age. The second dose should be given at least 28 days after the first vaccine is administered.

Section 2: Definitions

An **international student** is defined for the purpose of this policy as any person born in a country where TB is endemic, who is not a permanent resident, and receives instruction in a room in which other students are present.

Enrollment is defined by the first day of class that the student is in attendance.

Section 3: Compliance Process for International Students

A. Initial Paperwork

All international students will be required to complete all necessary paperwork by Health Services for processing. This paperwork includes the following: Health History Form, TB Screening Form for Foreign-Born Students, and the Immunization Questionnaire. This paperwork will be distributed to the international students by the IMSSO and the students will bring the completed paperwork to the Health and Wellness Center when they attend the T-spot clinic.

B. Compliance with TB Screening and MMR Requirements

1. International students are required to comply with TB testing (T-spot) within 30 days of enrollment or else be withdrawn from the University due to non-compliance. The Health and Wellness Center offers T-spot testing at a cost of \$50 per test. This charge is added to the student's account and must be paid prior to registration for the next academic term. Students should attend the scheduled T-spot clinic in order to comply with this screening (see below for further information regarding the T-spot clinic).

2. Exceptions to the TB Screening Policy:

International students from certain countries are exempt from the TB screening regulations. TB is NOT endemic in the countries listed below:

American Region: Canada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, USA, Virgin Islands (USA)

European Region: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, San Marino, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom

Western Pacific Region: American Samoa, Australia, New Zealand

3. International students are required to comply with two MMR vaccinations within 60 days of enrollment or else will be withdrawn from the University due to non-

compliance. Some students will have already received the first and/or second MMR dose and others will receive the first and/or second dose at the T-spot clinic (see below for further information regarding the T-spot clinic). The second MMR dose must be given at least 28 days after the first vaccine is administered; any dose given before 28 days from the first dose will be invalid. It is highly recommended that the students utilize the services offered by the Health and Wellness Center to obtain their necessary and regulated health screenings and vaccinations, but is not required. The Health and Wellness Center offers the MMR vaccine at a cost of \$50 per vaccine. The charge is added to the student's account and must be paid prior to the registration for the next academic term. Students will receive their first MMR vaccine if applicable during the T-spot clinic. If students have previously received MMR vaccinations, they will be required to furnish proof to IMSSO for interpretation. The IMSSO will then scan the records into Xtender and notify Health Services for review. If students are not able to furnish records, but state that they have had their vaccines, no vaccine will be administered during the T-spot clinic. The students will still be accountable to have all records or proof of vaccination to the Health and Wellness Center within the appropriate timeframe.

4. The Health and Wellness Center will schedule T-spot clinic days and MMR vaccination days at the discretion of the Director of Health Services. There will be 2 T-spot clinic days scheduled each semester. One T-spot clinic day will be held for the on-time arrival of international students and one T-spot clinic day will be held for the late arrival of international students. These dates will be communicated to the IMSSO and IMSSO will inform international students of these scheduled T-spot clinic days. The Health and Wellness Center will not schedule individual T-spot testing for students; students must attend a scheduled T-spot clinic. If the students should miss the T-spot clinic days offered by the Health and Wellness Center, it is the responsibility of the student to have this test done at an outside agency and to provide proof of the test within the 30 day timeframe. The only local outside agency currently performing acceptable blood tests is Millard Henry Clinic. There will also be 2 MMR clinic days scheduled by the Director of Health Services and communicated to the IMSSO. The IMSSO will inform international students of these MMR clinic dates. Students may utilize this reserved time to have their second MMR vaccine administered as needed. If students should miss these MMR clinic days, they may call and schedule an appointment with the Health and Wellness Center to receive the MMR vaccination. If they choose to receive these vaccines from an off campus provider, they must furnish proof within the appropriate timeframe to be compliant.

Section 4: Monitoring Processes for Compliance

A. Reporting System

Health Services will collaborate with the Office of Institutional Research and the IMSSO to create a reporting system that accurately reveals compliance and non-compliance with the T-spot/MMR regulations. Each office will be able to run and view reports within the Argos system that will generate from the Banner system to accurately reflect compliance. Health Services will have 2 days from the date of service to update all information in the Banner system for reporting purposes and to ensure accurate records.

B. Methods for Responding to Noncompliance

International students are required to comply with TB testing (T-spot) within 30 days of enrollment or else be withdrawn from class due to non-compliance. International students are required to comply with two MMR vaccinations within 60 days of enrollment or else will be withdrawn from the University due to non-compliance. The Director of Health Services will email the Registrar and recommend the withdrawal of students due to non-compliance as appropriate. The Arkansas Department of Health regulation states that students must be excluded from school until the requirements have been met.

C. Response to Positive T-spot Results

Upon reporting of T-spot lab results, if a student has a positive result Health Services will be responsible for completing the Tb-109 form required by the Arkansas Department of Health and faxing all pertinent information to the Pope County Health Unit. The IMSSO will be notified of the positive students and will ask that they, either student or member of the IMSSO staff, report to the Health and Wellness Center for retrieval of the requisition for chest x-ray mandated by the Department of Health. The students will then go to Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center (located at 1808 West Main Street; Phone: 479-968-2841) where they will undergo a chest x-ray. After completion of the chest x-ray, the students must request that a copy of the x-ray film be placed on a CD to be taken to the Department of Health that day for forwarding to Little Rock for review by the Tuberculosis expert. The Pope County Department of Health will notify the Director of Health Services should any further treatment be warranted. The Director of Health Services will communicate this information with IMSSO.

Section 4: Documentation Requirements

A. Requirements for Records from Outside Facilities

Health services will accept proof of TB blood test (T-spot or Quantiferon Gold) permitted it has been completed within the year in the United States and the student has had no travel to an endemic country. Intrastate transfers will also be accepted permitted the student can supply the documentation that he/she has previously complied with this regulation. MMR immunization records will also be accepted from outside facilities permitted all information meets state and university regulations. If the immunization record is documented in any language other than English, translation must be maintained and approved by a member of the IMSSO staff prior to validation.

All vaccination records must contain the student's name, date of birth, type of vaccination received, lot number, expiration date, manufacturer, administrator and credentials of administrator. All proof of T-spot screening must contain the student's name, date of birth, type of test obtained, provider ordering the test and credentials, and result. MMR Titer tests that reveal immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella will be accepted in lieu of 2 MMR vaccinations only if immunity/antibodies are revealed. The Health and Wellness Center does offer MMR titer testing at no charge to students. However, acceptance of a titer will be contingent upon approval from the Arkansas Department of Health.

B. Record Maintenance

Health Services will retain records for three years after the student's last day of class attendance as mandated by the Arkansas Department of Health.