

A Message to UK HealthCare Volunteers, Observers and Students from the Director of Employee Health

Welcome to UK HealthCare. Even though you are not an employee of UK HealthCare, our Employee Health Policy still pertains to you. It is designed for your protection as well as the health and safety of our patients. Please remember that a healthcare facility is a potentially hazardous place. There are certain health risks that come with working in any health care facility and specific precautions that must be taken in order to minimize those risks. I know that it has been emphasized to you that as a volunteer or observer, you should not have any direct contact with patients. That being said, it is still important that you do all you can to safeguard your own health. Frequent hand washing and vaccination against communicable diseases will provide additional protection to you and our patients. For the protection of our patients, immunizations (or known immunity) against measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and varicella (chickenpox) are mandatory for all volunteers, observers and students. The COVID-19 vaccination or an approved exemption is required. Annual seasonal flu vaccination is also required. In addition, for your protection, it is highly recommended that you complete a hepatitis B vaccination series. Finally, we are required by the State of Kentucky to have proof of tuberculosis testing for all volunteers, observers and students prior to starting with us and then again annually. The information below outlines the required vaccinations and the acceptable documentation. Please note:

- *All documentation must be in the English language in order to be accepted;*
- *If there is a medical or religious reason you cannot receive a required vaccine, you must request a declination and provide supporting documentation;*
- *Negative titer results (if applicable) and false positives on TB skin tests (if applicable) may result in additional costs and/or extend the timeline to confirm compliance with UK HealthCare immunization requirements.*

<p><u>MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella)</u> Proof of immunity to rubella, rubeola and mumps by one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation of two (2) doses of MMR vaccines • Positive protective rubeola, rubella and mumps antibody titers <p>* If one titer is negative, you will be required to receive a booster dose of the MMR vaccine.</p>	<p><u>Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis)</u> Documentation of one (1) Tdap vaccine. Helpful notes about Tdap:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tdap vaccine is specific to adolescents and adults for protection against pertussis, tetanus and diphtheria • Tdap is different from the regular tetanus (Td) vaccine and also from the childhood DTaP vaccine
<p><u>Hepatitis B</u> Volunteers and observers should not come into contact with patient bodily fluids; however, accidents happen. Hepatitis B vaccine is <u>strongly recommended</u>, but not required. If you've had the Hepatitis B vaccine in the past, please provide documentation for all three (3) doses or a positive HBV (hepatitis B virus) titer.</p>	<p><u>Varicella (Chickenpox)</u> Proof of immunity to varicella by one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation of two (2) doses of varicella vaccine • Positive varicella antibody titer <p>* If your titer is negative, you will be required to receive two (2) doses of the vaccine at the recommended intervals</p>
<p><u>Tuberculosis Screening</u> You must have Tuberculosis (TB) test within the past one (1) year. The TB Skin Test (TST) <i>or</i> IGRA blood draw documentation is acceptable. We take TB tests from the health department, other hospitals' employee health programs, the military and other clinics where TB testing is performed frequently. For skin tests, the TB documentation MUST include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date given, date read, and reading millimeters • Signature of the clinician who performed and read the test <p>* If you have a positive skin test or positive blood draw, include physician documentation of the positive test and a negative chest x-ray report</p> <p>* If you received the BCG vaccine as a child, the <u>blood draw does not</u> cause a false positive whereas the <u>skin test could</u> cause a false positive</p> <p>* If you have a history of a prior positive TB test, we will need all documentation about that test, follow-up evaluations you had (including chest x-rays) and any treatment received</p>	
<p><u>Seasonal Influenza Vaccination</u> All personnel, including observers, students and volunteers, who will be located in the hospital or patient care facility between October 1 and March 31 of the current year are required to have the season influenza vaccination for that year</p>	
<p><u>COVID-19 Vaccination</u> UK HealthCare requires all individuals in a UKHC facility, to submit appropriate documentation showing, i) completion of the full vaccination series against COVID-19 (i.e., two weeks past completing their complete COVID-19 vaccination series), or ii) approved exemption (medical contraindications or a sincerely held religious belief)</p>	

Additional information about protecting yourself from potential blood and body fluid associated illness is available [here](#). Once again, thank you for your interest in UK HealthCare. Employee Health collaborates with Volunteer Services, Observation and Learning Experience (OLE) and other departments to assure your health and well-being while you are with us.

With Regards:
Ann Hays, MD
Medical Director Employee Health University of Kentucky