

Pacific Union College Nursing Program Health Clearance Requirements for Nursing Students

Working in a healthcare setting comes with a number of requirements related to health and nursing. As a student in the nursing program, you will need to meet the following health clearance requirements. Documentation showing compliance with these requirements must be uploaded to CastleBranch, the agency we use to track clinical clearance documents. In addition, each nursing student is responsible for maintaining a current copy of their health records that is readily accessible, as facilities can ask anyone providing patient care to show health compliance documentation.

Requirements must be complete and verified by the nursing program no later than:

- September 1 for fall quarter**
- December 15 for winter quarter**
- March 16 for spring quarter**

Please review your records and do not wait until the last minute!

Items are due for renewal during the quarter must be renewed and documents submitted to CastleBranch prior to the renewal date. **Students who have outdated or incomplete immunization records will NOT be allowed to attend clinicals.**

Health Clearance Requirements for Nursing Students (Upon Entry to Program):

1. **Physical examination:** Every nursing student must have an exam within 12 months of the start date of their first quarter. If you have any significant medical changes since the date of your initial examination, PUC reserves the right to request an additional examination prior to beginning clinicals or at any time during the nursing program. Physical exam forms are available at <http://www.puc.edu/campus-services/health-services/home> – select *Health Information Form*.
2. **Tuberculosis skin tests:** Entering nursing students are required to have **two (2)** TB skin tests or a Quantiferon Gold Blood Draw prior to beginning the program. This means that an initial TB Skin Test (TST) must be done after acceptance and within 4 months of starting the program, and then, if the result is negative, a second TST needs to be administered. The two tests must be 7 – 21 days apart, based on the administration date. This is called “two-step testing” and is required for all healthcare workers, including nursing students. Test results that fall outside of the recommended time frame may result in the student needing additional TSTs. Because some hospitals will soon require Quantiferon Gold TB Testing only, **WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND GETTING THE QUANTIFERON GOLD BLOOD DRAW**; PUC student insurance and most insurance covers it.
3. **Immunizations:** Written verification must be in English and include your name, date/dates given, and signature of medical provider who administered the vaccines. Lab findings must also be official documents.
 - **MMR:** MMR stands for measles (rubeola), mumps, and rubella: If you had any of these illnesses as a child, you can verify immunity with a blood test (titer) with your physician’s immunization records. The lab report must show all three positive for immunity for meeting this requirement. If measles and mumps are below the level of immunity desired you will be **required to receive two (2) doses of the MMR vaccine at least 28 days apart. If only rubella is below the level of desired immunity, you will be required to receive only one (1) dose of the MMR vaccine. Please note that there are no separate vaccines available for these conditions.**

Please note: If you are uncertain whether you had these conditions or immunizations as a child, you should know that MMR is safe to repeat and you will need to have **two doses** as listed above to meet the requirement. Also, some clinical rotation facilities may separately request that students show rubella evidence within the last 10 years, which may require repeating the MMR vaccine.

- **Varicella:** Varicella is chicken pox. If you had the illness as a child, you must have a blood test (titer) to show that you are positive for immunity. **If you did not have the illness or are unsure, you should request the vaccine of two (2) doses at least 28 days apart.** (Health Services does not carry this vaccine due to the expense and fragility of the vaccine. It can be ordered and administered for you but arrangements must be made in advance).

- **Hepatitis B:** Hepatitis B vaccination is a series of **three (3) vaccines given over a six-month period. (It is very important to have vaccine #2 four weeks after vaccine #1, and vaccine #3 at least five months after vaccine #2).** You will be cleared for clinicals as long as you have vaccines 1 & 2 completed before you start a clinical rotation. You must then be sure to get the 3rd vaccine done when you receive the reminder from CastleBranch.
- **DTaP/Tdap:** DTaP stands for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis. This vaccine should have the higher concentration of pertussis (thus the capital “P”). If you are unsure you’ve had it or immunity cannot be verified you must repeat this vaccine. Current recommendations are that anyone aged 19-65 who has direct patient contact in hospitals or clinics should get a dose of Tdap (the adult version of DTaP). A 2-year interval since the last Td is suggested, but not required. **When receiving a DTaP vaccine be sure to let your doctor know is has to have the “pertussis” included.**
- **Influenza Vaccine:** **An annual influenza vaccine is required for all students; no exceptions.** (Usually available Mid-August). Waivers are accepted *only for medical indications*; if you request a waiver, you will be asked to complete and sign a declination form and to include a signed letter from your healthcare provider stating the reason why you cannot have the flu vaccine. Once you have both the signed declination form and the signed letter from your doctor, you will have to upload both to CastleBranch. **Please note if you do not have the flu vaccine, you will need to wear a mask at all times during your clinical rotations.**
- **COVID 19 & Booster:** Evidence of full COVID-19 vaccination and subsequent boosters is required by most facilities for clinical placement. The department has not made the COVID vaccine mandatory but highly recommended. **Unvaccinated nursing students may not be able to be placed in facilities to complete the required clinical component of courses, which could result in the need to disrupt progression in the program until the student is either fully vaccinated or facility policy changes. “Fully vaccinated” includes boosters.**

Health Clearance Requirements for Nursing Students (Ongoing)

1. **Tuberculosis skin tests:** Continuing nursing students must participate in annual TB screening after the Quantiferon blood draw or the initial two-step process. As with other health documentation, verification of your annual screening must be uploaded to CastleBranch, prior to the renewal date. **If you usually test positive with TB skin tests, a Quantiferon Gold Blood draw is required (no exceptions), along with a chest x-ray and a yearly TB Questionnaire form that must be filled out and uploaded to CastleBranch. Chest x-rays are good for 5 years.**

*If you have additional questions, please contact the Nursing & Health Sciences department **Clinical Placement Liaison Coordinator Bryan Kim** (bjkim@puc.edu, 707-965-7611). If Bryan is not available, contact **Office Manager Ruth Zemansky** for clarification (erzemansky@puc.edu, 707-965-7617). **Immunization requirements are nursing students’ responsibility!**