Dartmouth
GEISEL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

General Health and Immunizations Policy

Summary of Purpose

Medical students encounter certain exposure risks when caring for patients with infectious diseases. Medical students also may expose patients, some of whom have compromised immune status, to infectious diseases. The purpose of this policy is to minimize these exposure risks for both parties.

Scope and Applicability

This policy applies to all Geisel medical students.

Definitions

Fitness for Duty: is a student's ability to perform safely, without an impairment, all essential functions of their position, as described in the Geisel Technical Standards for Matriculation, Promotion and Graduation, from the time the student reports to class or clinical work and throughout the entirety of the student's scheduled work shift, as determined by Geisel and/or Dartmouth Health or other Geisel clinical affiliates at their discretion.

Policy Statement

All Geisel medical students must complete immunization and contagious disease requirements.

To ensure that all medical students are protected against preventable communicable illness, these requirements must be met prior to matriculation and annually thereafter.

All students are required to sign the following three-part form. Once signed, this form is applicable for a given student during the entirety of their enrollment at Geisel.

In addition to Dartmouth College institutional health requirements, medical students must comply with Geisel-specific, clinical partner specific, and Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) requirements, which include:

- Tuberculosis testing (at matriculation and prior to years three and four)
- Annual influenza immunizations

- Drug testing at any time requested by Geisel
- Drug testing at any time requested by our clinical partners,
- Immunization or health screening as mandated by revised policies which are updated annually

Students may not participate in clinical care or participate in clinical settings when they have an infectious disease or are being evaluated for a potentially infectious disease. Examples of potential infectious diseases include:

- Positive tuberculosis tests (PPD or QuantiFERON testing)
- Respiratory illness (coughing / sneezing)
- Fevers, chills, vomiting

Students questioning their symptoms can consult this "Should I Work Today?" resource. The handout is written for DHMC employees, and it is helpful in assessing whether symptoms should keep students from participating in clinical care. Students can also find this document on the Office of Student Life website.

Students with significant infectious issues, as well as other non-infectious conditions that may place patients at risk (including for example positive PPDs and communicable diseases described in the 'Should I work today?'), will require a 'Fit for Duty' letter from their private provider, Dick's House, or DHMC Occupational Medicine to return to clinical care. During years one and two, the 'Fit for Duty letters should be given to the Associate Dean of Students, and during years three and four, should be given to the Associate Dean of Clinical Education. Students at clinical settings must comply with any potential preventive instructions/interventions from occupational medicine or organizational leadership designed to protect patients.

Procedure

None.

LCME Standard

Standard 12.7 – Immunization Requirements and Monitoring
A medical school follows accepted guidelines in determining immunization requirements for its medical students and monitors students' compliance with those requirements.

Related Information: Documents, Policies, Links, Etc.

Should I Work Today?
GSM Healthy for Clinic and Class Policy
GSM Drug Screening Policy
GSM Influenza Waiver Policy
Technical Standards

Policy Administration

Policy Number:	UME-OSL-0003		
Reviewed By:	Associate Dean, Student Life	**Effective Date:**	June 1, 2012
Approved By:	Office of Student Life	**Last Date Approved:**	June 12, 2018

Policy Contact Information

Student Life Office
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History

Date	History
June 1, 2012	Policy created and put into effect.
June 12, 2018	Policy was reviewed and revised.
June 1, 2019	Policy was reviewed.
April 24, 2023	Policy was reviewed and revised.
October 16, 2024	Policy reviewed and updated to reflect Office of Student Life name and template

Background

None.