

Indiana State University

School of Nursing

Student Nurse Health Policy

The health policies for the School of Nursing are in accord with the health policies of the University and major clinical agencies utilized for clinical laboratory learning experiences.

Students must submit verification that they have met all health requirements at time of application to the nursing program – see [Nursing Program Immunization Record form](#). Continuing students must maintain current health requirements and provide appropriate documentation prior to the start of each semester in which enrolled in a nursing course. Tuberculin (Tb) screening and tetanus and diphtheria (Td) vaccination that is due any time during the course of a semester must be completed prior to the start of that semester. For continuing students, failure to meet this criterion will result in not being allowed to attend clinicals, leading to clinical failure. The student who is not in compliance may choose to drop the course to avoid a failure. The continuing student may register for the dropped course(s) in the subsequent semester once the requirements have been satisfied.

Health requirements for admission and progression in the nursing major include:

- A negative tuberculin skin test (TST) or lab test and repeat testing every 364 days. Two-step testing must be used for the initial skin test. (Second TST must be administered 1-3 weeks after the first.) *A Quantiferon Tb-Gold or T.SPOT-TB blood test may be used in lieu of skin test.*
- An initial positive tuberculin skin test requires a Quantiferon Tb-Gold or T.SPOT-TB blood test. A positive Quantiferon Tb-Gold or T.SPOT-TB blood test requires a medical exam and chest x-ray.
- For individuals with latent TB, a current (within the last 364 days) negative chest x-ray and provider documentation of a treatment plan is required, followed by completion every 364 days of the [TB Assessment questionnaire](#).
- For individuals that have completed a TB medication protocol, a current (within the last 364 days) negative chest x-ray is required, followed by completion every 364 days of the [TB Assessment questionnaire](#) and possible chest x-ray and medical follow-up. Documentation of medication protocol, including treatment completion date, is required.
- For individuals who are known positive tuberculin skin-test screeners, a current (within the last 364 days) Quantiferon Tb-Gold or T.SPOT-TB blood test is required, followed every by completion every 364 days of the [TB Assessment questionnaire](#) and possible chest x-ray and medical follow-up.
- It is possible clinical agencies may require additional testing, documentation, and/or treatment for latent TB.

- For graduate students: After the initial required testing upon application, if a clinical agency does not require annual TST, per CDC guidelines, it is acceptable to complete the [TB Assessment questionnaire](#). The annual questionnaire must be completed within 364 days of the original two-step TST and every 364 days thereafter. This option is not available to undergraduate students. All undergraduate campus and distance students must complete an annual TST or blood test.

- Verification of current immunization status:
 - Tetanus & Diphtheria (Td) – Basic series and booster every ten years.
 - Pertussis – Students must receive a one-time dose of Tdap (substitute for 1 Td booster dose) prior to admission or for continuation in the nursing program even if the prior Td booster was received less than 10 years prior.
 - Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR) – Must fulfill one of the following:
 - Immunization with two doses of MMR vaccine given after the first birthday and at least 28 days apart;
 - Health practitioner-diagnosed measles, mumps and rubella disease (note: verbal history of disease is not acceptable); or
 - Serologic evidence of immunity that specifies date of titer.
 - Varicella (Chickenpox) – Must fulfill one of the following:
 - Immunization with two doses of vaccine at least 28 days apart;
 - Health practitioner-diagnosed varicella disease or herpes zoster (shingles) (verbal history of disease is not acceptable); or
 - Serologic evidence of immunity that specifies date of titer.
 - Hepatitis B – Three dose series (first two doses 30 days apart and the third two months after second dose and four months after first dose) with initial dose obtained prior to admission to nursing major; or serologic evidence of immunity that specifies date of titer.
 - Influenza – Required every 12 months during influenza season.

- Documentation, as appropriate, for non-compliance with immunization requirements:
 - [Written verification from a health care provider](#) (page 3) for any contraindications to vaccination indicating the nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstances, including pregnancy (if the student's condition or circumstances subsequently permit immunization, the exemptions granted will terminate); and
 - [Signed declination of vaccination statement](#) (page 3) submitted with application for admission and for subsequent changes in medical condition or circumstances.

During enrollment in the nursing program, students are expected to demonstrate appropriate health practices through regular health care and personal health behavior. Students are responsible for all personal health-related expenses. Health insurance coverage is recommended by the nursing program.

In determining a student's ability to participate in the clinical setting *for any clinical nursing course*, the faculty member/preceptor will consider the student's compliance with the health policy contained in this document and with CPR and annual bloodborne pathogen training.

In determining a student's ability to participate in the clinical setting *after any significant illness and/or injury*, the faculty member/preceptor will consider the following:

- Health care provider's statement of health status and recommendations, if any.
- Faculty member/preceptor's evaluation of the student's ability to function in the clinical setting. (Even though the health practitioner may state that the student may participate in the class and/or the clinical laboratory setting, *it is the faculty member's decision* to determine if the student is safe to provide patient care.)
- Student's ability to complete all requirements for the course's learning experiences.

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