

Quinnipiac University Physician Assistant Program Health and Compliance Policies

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS POLICY

Each student entering the Physician Assistant graduate program must be in good health and free of communicable disease (see Blood Borne Pathogen Policy). To ensure that students are meeting these requirements all students requires that all students are current with all of the following health requirements upon entry and throughout their time as a student in the QU PA Program. Students are responsible to ensure that none of the health requirements, vaccines, and screening tests go beyond their expiration dates. The student must show proof of recent (within 12 months) complete history and physical examination with vision testing for color blindness; in addition, the student must show proof of immunization for Diphtheria-Pertussis-Tetanus (DPT, this must be within 10 years and be current until the date of graduation), Polio Vaccine, Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR), meningococcal ACWY, Hepatitis B, and Varicella (dates of immunization or serologic proof of immunity). The student is required to show proof of positive quantitative titer Hepatitis B before they can begin the PA program. Titer must be within 5 years of matriculation into the graduate program and once a student provides initial positive quantitative proof of titers, no repeat titers are necessary for the duration of the program. In addition, the student must show proof of a recent (within 12 months) negative 2-step Purified Protein Derivative (PPD) (or negative QuantiFERON-TB Gold or negative chest x-ray) that is current upon entry in the program. Students requiring a chest x-ray (due to positive PPD/QuantiFERON) must also upload the signed TB Screening Clearance Form. The PPD/QuantiFERON Gold and Physical Exam are annual requirements; however, repeat testing may be needed depending on clinical site requirements. In addition, students must also get vaccinated for influenza annually (during current flu season, prior to November 1st annually) and also provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination and booster. Students who refuse vaccination cannot be guaranteed clinical site placement and should discuss any concerns with the Director of Compliance.

A student who has been hospitalized or had a surgical procedure, or is returning from any type of *Medical Leave of Absence* will be required to provide official documentation from their medical and/or mental health provider that they are healthy and safe to return to the program and that the medical issue that took them out of the PA program will not place patients at risk or hinder the student's ability to fulfill all the *Technical Standards* and/or complete the program. Depending on the length and/or reason for a *Medical Leave of Absence*, the student may be required to have a complete physical exam prior to re-entering the program

If a PA student has a leave of absence from the PA Program for any reason, prior to returning the PA student must complete a background check and may be required to complete a drug screen. Please see the compliance director for details.

The PA program faculty and the medical director may not serve as health care providers to students in the PA program. The Physician Assistant graduate program faculty can help to augment the referral process to a health care provider in the community but cannot serve directly as the student's health care agent. All students in the PA program

must provide evidence of current, continuous health insurance valid for the entire 27-month course of training or until they complete the program.

Student health information is kept on file at the university Student Health Services. In addition, the student's health information is also kept on file with a HIPAA-compliant electronic medical record collection and storage service as contracted by the university. PA Program faculty and staff do not have access to personal health information (the physical exam forms); designated faculty have access to immunization records and tuberculosis screenings only. Students are responsible for uploading all required health documents and keeping their electronic medical record up to date, as necessary. Students are also responsible for all fees associated with set-up and maintenance of the electronic medical record system.

The PA Program health requirements are collected and reviewed by Exxat, a HIPAA compliant collection and storage service, on a regular basis and students are notified of any deficiencies. It is the student's responsibility to see that all health requirements including immunizations and titers are up to date. No student will be allowed to participate in a clinical experience or in any class where there is the potential for exposure to blood and airborne pathogens without proof of physical exam, immunizations and titers. No one will be permitted to begin clinical contact without documentation of physical exam, immunizations and immunity (including the requested titers).

Students that provide an electronic signature through Exxat acknowledge and agree to have their profile information and compliance requirements shared with pre-clinical and clinical sites. Pre-clinical and clinical sites will have access to the student resume, certifications, drug screen results, background check results, and immunization records/titers. No protected or personal health information will be accessible by the program faculty, staff, pre-clinical or clinical sites.

IMMUNIZATION POLICY

Immunizations/Screenings

As required by the State of Connecticut, Quinnipiac University, the PA Program and the PA accrediting agency ARC-PA (and in accordance with the CDC's immunization schedule for healthcare workers), ALL students entering the PA program must document the following immunizations:

- Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR)-both dose 1 and 2
- Hepatitis B-doses 1, 2, and 3 of Recombivax or Energix-B, or 2 doses of Hepislav **and** positive quantitative titer
- Meningococcal ACWY Vaccine (Menveo, Menactra, or MenQuadfi)– both doses 1 and 2 if received as an adolescent/teenager. A single vaccine for those that are immigrants, over the age of 20 and have no prior vaccination.
- Varicella-doses 1 and 2 OR serologic proof of immunity
- Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis-must be within 10 years and be current until date of graduation
- Polio-dates of primary series and booster

- Tuberculosis screening, QuantiFERON Gold titer, or 2-step Purified Protein Derivative (PPD)
 - COVID-19 (Pfizer, Moderna or Janssen) Series and at least one booster (Pfizer or Moderna)
 - Influenza (*due November 1st annually*)

If you are unable to confirm immunization status or unable to obtain immunizations due to personal, religious or medical reasons, the Quinnipiac PA Program cannot guarantee your placement at a clinical site, and this may limit your ability to successfully complete and graduate from the program. Completion of all clinical rotations is required for successful completion of the program.

Measles-Mumps-Rubella

Students must provide dates of both MMR doses 1 and 2. If a student cannot provide proof of both MMR vaccinations, proof of positive immunity for each disease including a copy of the titer reports is adequate. If the student is unable to provide documentation of MMR immunizations or serologic evidence of immunity, the student will follow CDC guidelines for “Recommended Vaccinations for Healthcare Workers.” For those students born prior to January 1, 1957, you must include a copy of your license or birth certificate to verify age.

Meningococcal

Students must provide dates of both MenACWY doses 1 and 2. The acceptable Vaccines include Menveo, Menactra, or MenQuadfi. If the student is unable to provide documentation of Meningococcal immunizations, the student will follow CDC guidelines for “Recommended Vaccinations for Healthcare Workers.” This includes the administration of a single MenACWY vaccine prior to starting the program. Serologic titers are not acceptable as there are no acceptable serologic titers that can be used as evidence of protection against meningococcal A, C, W, and Y disease.

Varicella

Students must provide dates for both doses of Varicella vaccinations. If the student had chicken pox (varicella), or dates of immunization are unable to be provided, the student will obtain and upload serologic evidence of immunity by titer. If the student is unable to provide documentation of serologic evidence of immunity, the student will follow CDC guidelines for “Recommended Vaccinations for Healthcare Workers.”

Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis

Students must provide the date of their most recent Tdap immunization. It must be within ten years and must be current until the date of graduation.

Influenza Vaccination

The program requires all students to obtain the influenza vaccine in the fall of their first year and again in the fall of their second year. If a student is unable to receive the influenza vaccine, they will need to follow the institution’s policy for influenza prevention (including but not limited to always wearing a mask while in the hospital or

clinical site). The program's declination form (see Director of Compliance) must be completed and uploaded to the immunization site, as well as discussed with the clinical coordinators.

Note: By declining the influenza vaccination, the Quinnipiac PA Program cannot guarantee your placement at a clinical site, and this may limit your ability to successfully complete and graduate from the program. Completion of all clinical rotations is required for successful completion of the program.

COVID-19 Vaccination

The program requires all students to provide proof (original COVID-19 vaccination card or documentation from the vaccination clinic including the brand, lot and date of administration) of COVID-19 vaccination and booster(s). If a student is unable to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, they will need to follow the institution's policy for obtaining an exemption and the student must also connect with the program's Director of Compliance and clinical faculty. The policies of each clinical site on vaccination and boosters supersedes any instance in which the university may grant vaccination exemptions; the university cannot guarantee alternate clinical placements if a student does not comply with the clinical partner's vaccination/booster requirements or other policies. Students who do not comply with these policies risk their eligibility for assignment to a clinical site, and therefore continuation of their program of study. Completion of all clinical rotations is required for successful completion of the program.

Hepatitis B Vaccine and Titer:

All incoming Quinnipiac University physician assistant students must have either started or completed the Hepatitis B vaccine series and show proof of positive quantitative titer for immunity. If a student has already had the series, they need to provide the program with proof of titer prior to starting class. If a student is in the process of receiving the Hepatitis B series (3 immunizations), they must provide the program with the date(s) of immunizations received. These students will be allowed to start the program but must complete the series at the designated times, including the titer.

For Hepatitis B negative titer after initial series:

As per CDC guidelines "completely vaccinated HCP with anti-HBs <10 mIU/mL should receive an additional dose of HepB vaccine, followed by anti-HBs testing 1–2 months later. An HCP whose anti-HBs remains <10 mIU/mL should complete the second series (usually 6 doses total) or Heptisrav 2 dose series, followed by repeat anti-HBs testing 1–2 months after the final dose. Alternatively, it might be more practical for very recently vaccinated HCP with anti-HBs <10 mIU/mL to receive the second complete series (usually 6 doses total), followed by anti-HBs testing 1–2 months after the final dose".

The determination of option 1 and option 2 is to be determined by the student's provider.

Hepatitis B non-responders:

Nonresponders are required to provide the program with documentation of all 6 doses and titer levels. In addition, students are also required to meet with their healthcare provider to discuss non-immune status. The student should be counseled regarding

precautions to prevent HBV infection and the need to obtain HBIG prophylaxis for any known or probable parenteral exposure to hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)-positive blood. The student's provider should also sign the "Hepatitis B Non-Immunity Form." It is also possible that non-responders are people who are HBsAg positive. Testing should be considered. If you are found to be HBsAg positive you should be counseled and medically evaluated (please refer to the BBP section of this document for further details).

Tuberculosis Testing Policy

All incoming PA students are required to show proof of a negative 2-step PPD (purified protein derivative) or QuantiFERON gold by the assigned due date and again just prior to entering the clinical year. Repeat 2-step PPD/QuantiFERON gold may be required at various times during the clinical year depending on specific requirements of clinical sites. 2-step PPD can be obtained through *QU Student Health Services*. If the PPD or QuantiFERON gold is positive, the student must provide the program with evidence of a negative chest x-ray and the student should meet with their provider for counseling and to have the "TB Screening Clearance Form" signed.

OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE AND ACCIDENTAL INJURY POLICY

The Quinnipiac University *Student Exposure Control Plan for Bloodborne and Airborne Pathogens* and the *Student Incident Policy (Accident and Injury)* may be accessed through:

- <https://catalog.qu.edu/university-policies/student-exposure-control-plan/>
- <https://catalog.qu.edu/university-policies/student-incident-report/>

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

Students in the Quinnipiac University Physician Assistant graduate program are covered during assigned clinical duties and community outreach events by a malpractice policy that insures all students and employees of the university. It covers all student activities relative to their training wherever they are receiving such instruction. Coverage only applies to PA program sanctioned and pre-approved events. It does not cover students on personal time or during activities that have not been approved by the program.

DISABILITY INSURANCE

Students in the Quinnipiac University Physician Assistant graduate program will be enrolled in a mandatory disability policy when they enter the program (included as part of Tuition and Fees). The policy will cover the student if they are enrolled in the program and in good academic standing. Upon completion of the PA program, students will have the option of converting from a group to a personal policy.

HEALTH/MEDICAL INSURANCE

All QU Physician Assistant students must obtain health/medical insurance through the university. At the start of class, students must show proof of health care coverage (must be valid for the entire 27-months of the program) to enter classes. Students must purchase health insurance through the university insurance agent unless they can show proof of other adequate coverage.

A student may opt out of the university health care coverage (hard waiver) only if they can provide documentation of valid medical insurance that will cover them for the duration of the PA program. Students must be able to show proof of insurance by the first day of classes.

Insurance coverage will be reviewed at the end of the didactic year and again at the end of the clinical year. Students may continue their current policies (must be pre-approved) or purchase health/medical insurance through the university at select times during the year. Information about the university insurance program is provided prior to matriculation and is available online. Insurance can be purchased on-line through the university insurance agent—Arthur J. Gallagher. The Arthur J. Gallagher & Company website for Quinnipiac graduate students is:

<https://www.gallagherstudent.com/students/student-home.php?idField=1113>

For general information or benefits, eligibility enrollment and ID cards, students may contact:

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