



Immunization Policy for the Department of Physician Assistant Studies during the Professional Phase*

The King's College Department of Physician Assistant Studies immunization requirements are based on the Center of Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) for health professionals and any Pennsylvania specific mandates. There are no known additional specific immunization or health screenings mandated by the state of Pennsylvania and Luzerne County. Proof of immunization status must be completed prior to entering the program and updated annually.

The following link provides a list of the CDC's recommended vaccinations for health professionals.

(<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/imz-schedules/adult-medical-condition.html#table-conditions>)

The following link provides Pennsylvania's general immunization guidelines:
<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/health/programs/immunizations/general-immunization-guidance>

The King's College PA Program requires the following:

- Annual Influenza vaccination (Not due until the start of Influenza season)
- 1 dose Tdap then Td or Tdap booster updated every 10 years
- MMR- proof of two immunizations against MMR or laboratory evidence of a positive titer against each of the three components of this vaccination.
- VAR two dose series or laboratory proof of immunity
- Hep B three dose series or laboratory evidence of immunity
- TB (see below)

The King's College PA Program does not require the following immunizations but does recommend that students follow the recommendations of their health care provider to determine their individual risk for these additional immunizations.

- COVID 19
- RSV
- RZV
- HPV
- Pneumococcal
- Mpox
- IPV



- Though not an immunization, students must have a 2-step tuberculin skin test or an IGRA (Interferon-Gamma Release Assay) within three months from the start of the program. Additional tuberculosis testing may also be required by clinical sites or if there is a known exposure or ongoing transmission. Positive results will require proper evaluation, and documentation must be submitted as instructed by the PA Program.
- Although the meningococcal (meningitis) vaccine is not required by the PA Program, IT IS required by The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for students living in college-owned and operated residence halls. Therefore, resident students must either provide written documentation of meningitis immunization (at least one dose of MenACWY over the age of 16) or sign a waiver to indicate they have been informed about this disease and vaccine and have chosen not to be immunized. This form is imbedded in the electronic immunization record health required by student health. Otherwise, the meningococcal vaccines are only for those that are routinely exposed to isolates of *Neisseria meningitidis*.
- Students with a medical exemption for influenza have to follow clinical site protocols for required masking.

The King's College PA Program does recognize medical exemption for immunizations approved by the program. A medical exemption, however, may not be approved by a clinical site. If not approved by the clinical site, this may result in the inability of a student to continue or complete the program.

Facilities and hospitals often require additional immunizations and titers, or health screenings which students must obtain prior to starting rotations at those sites. These additional requirements are listed for the students on Prism. Students will be required to get these immunizations and health screenings even if they are not required by the program.

Failure to comply with the Immunization Policy for the Department of Physician Assistant Studies or any additional immunizations and titers, or health screenings for clinical rotations will result in the inability to enter, continue with or complete the program. All costs incurred in complying with this policy are the responsibility of the student.

*Policy subject to change at any time in order to comply with ARC-PA standards, King's College and Hospital policies. The King's College Department of PA Studies will make every attempt to notify its students of these changes in a timely manner.