

University of Saint Francis | Physician Assistant Program

Excerpts from page 63 of the *PA Student Handbook*

8.1 PROGRAMMATIC IMMUNIZATION & HEALTH SCREENING REQUIREMENTS

In accordance to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for health professionals (which can be found by clicking [here](#), scrolling down to the “Life Events, Job, Travel” section, and clicking the “Healthcare Workers” tab) all students in the USF PA program are required to be up-to-date with specific vaccinations (A3.07a). The information found on the webpage is also reiterated here, in that USF PA students are required to be up-to-date with the:

- Chickenpox vaccine (varicella)
- Flu vaccine (influenza)
- Hepatitis B vaccine (or provide Hepatitis B serologic proof)
- MMR vaccine (measles, mumps, and rubella)
- Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough) or Td (tetanus and diphtheria).

According to [Indiana State Immunization Laws](#), these vaccinations are not required by the state, but they are required of students enrolled in the USF PA program. Students are also strongly encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in accordance with CDC guidelines. However, the COVID-19 vaccination is not a program or COHS requirement.

All students are expected to complete all required immunizations. If a student refuses immunization, including the recommendation to be vaccinated against COVID-19, COHS Form 5.9.1, COHS Declination of Vaccination Form, will be provided for the student to read and sign. USF will provide medical and religious exemptions for the COVID-19 vaccine requirement, but certain clinical facilities may not accept such exemptions. Depending on specific clinical affiliating agency requirements, declining immunizations, including the recommended vaccine for COVID-19, may prevent the student from being able to participate in a required clinical experience. Students that are unable to meet the educational requirements of the program by participating in clinical experiences requiring vaccination could be delayed in graduating or dismissed from the program.

Other vaccines, such as the meningococcal vaccine, HPV vaccine (human papillomavirus), and/or Shingles vaccine (zoster) may be recommended based on age and other factors, in accordance with CDC guidance. Students are encouraged to speak with their healthcare provider to learn which, if any, of the optional vaccines may be appropriate. All costs associated with immunizations and health screenings, required or recommended, are the responsibility of the student.

8.2 INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL HEALTH POLICY

Students engaged in elective international curricular components will be required, at their own cost, to adhere to [current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) recommendations for international travel](#) (A3.07b).