

Communicable Disease Policy

(adapted from the Beth-El College Undergraduate Nursing Student Handbook pp. 24-27)

All students are required to provide the college with proof of the following immunizations, tests, CPR certification and health insurance.

REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS

ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE COLLEGE WITH PROOF OF THE FOLLOWING IMMUNIZATIONS, TESTS, CPR, AND HEALTH INSURANCE.

A legible copy of this record must be kept in the student's professional portfolio notebook (beginning in Nurs 210). This portfolio will accompany the student throughout their clinical career at Beth-El College. Failure to comply with this policy is grounds for dismissal from a clinical course.

It is the student's responsibility to keep ALL immunizations up-to-date. This is particularly important with respect to the tuberculosis (PPD) testing requirement. A TB skin test **MUST** be valid for the duration of each clinical experience. Students with a positive PPD must complete an annual TB health assessment and evaluation by a healthcare provider (see appendix). It is the college's policy that students whose TB skin test expires during a semester period will be asked to withdraw from the course that semester!

- a. **2 (two) MMR's** (or **written evidence of laboratory tests** showing titers of all three immunities: measles, mumps and rubella). This is not required if student was born before Jan. 1, 1957. Records must be updated and available each semester as part of preparation for clinical experiences.
- b. **Td/DT injection** or tetanus booster within the last 10 years. Based on recent concerns about a resurgence of Pertussis, it is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** that students requiring interval tetanus update immunizations (every 10 years) receive a **Tdap (ADACEL)** immunization. Students are strongly encouraged to receive ADACEL if they previously received either Td or Dtap more than 5 years prior for maximum protection of their health and the health of their clients.
- c. **Hepatitis B** series or Hepatitis antibody titer (titer must show immunity). The three-injection series takes 6-12 months to complete. Second year nursing students must initiate the series. The series must be completed no later than the beginning of the fourth (senior) year of the program. Students who do not complete this requirement will be asked to withdraw from clinical courses until the series is completed or an antibody titer is completed.
- d. **PPD (Tuberculosis Skin Test – TST)** TST test results will not be accepted if they expire during the clinical class semester. Students with a history of a positive PPD or positive serum QuantiFERON are required to complete a written assessment annually and review it with their health care provider (HCP), the Public Health Department, or UCCS Student Health Services. Written evidence of this assessment in the form of a statement by the HCP must be presented to meet this annual requirement. See example form in appendix.

Recently a serum test for tuberculosis screening, **QuantiFERON** has become available for use in screening for tubercular exposure. While this test is available and is being used at several local health care organizations, the PPD (TST) skin test remains the test of choice for

TB screening. Students who have been tested using the QuantiFERON testing method will continue to submit evidence of annual testing/screening while at school.

- e. **Varicella (Chicken Pox)** - student must have a documented history of a two-injection varicella immunization series OR a documented **laboratory** result indicating immunity to varicella OR documented (written) evidence from a healthcare provider or a medical record entry indicating that the student has had the varicella disease OR documentation from a healthcare provider or a medical record entry that the student has had a diagnosis of herpes zoster (shingles) (*revised and approved 05.21.2008*)

CPR (CARDIO/PULMONARY RESUSCITATION)

Students are encouraged to complete CPR certification (BLS level) during off class times (Summer or Winter Break) so that certification will not expire during a clinical course. Contact your provider for additional information.

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

All undergraduate nursing students are required to show proof of health insurance which must be maintained at all times. Students without insurance will be blocked from attending clinical/practicum. Student health insurance is available and information may be obtained at Student Success Insurance Office at 719- 262-3255.

Background Check Policy (effective January 18, 2007)

In order to maintain the highest standards possible, Beth El College of Nursing and Health Science instituted a Background Check Policy to help protect public safety.

All nursing and health science students (undergraduate and graduate) participating in a laboratory, clinical, practicum or internship course will be required to submit data for a certified background check at their expense.

- Background checks need to be completed online at <http://www.certifiedbackground.com> at the time of course registration.
- Students each have confidential access to the results of their own background check status.
- All background check results will be reviewed by the Beth El College of Nursing and Health Sciences Academic Standards and Professional Conduct Committee.
 - Should there be a negative background check finding, the committee will determine if a student is eligible to participate in the course.
 - Eligibility is based on the nature of the finding as well as the clinical site requirements.
 - Students may submit an appeal to the committee if additional data might be of benefit to the committee.
 - Appeal decisions will be judged on documented factual issues. Every effort will be made to place the student in an alternative site, if available.
 - Alternatives are not always available. If a student is unable to complete the course due to an inability to participate, the student may be dismissed from the program.

It is the policy of Beth-El College that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the college building and surrounding parking lot and lawns or during any educational or clinical/practicum experiences associated with the academic process.

- Each student will, as a condition of acceptance into the college, abide by this policy.
- Students on clinical/practicum with signs of alcohol or drug use will be sent off clinical/practicum immediately for the safety of patients and the student.
- In the event of a conviction for a violation of any criminal drug statute occurring on or in college property, or associated with the educational process, the student will notify the Dean of Beth-El college no later than five (5) days after such conviction.
- A first offense will result in the requirement of the offender to satisfactorily participate in a drug-abuse rehabilitation program approved by a Federal, State or local health/law enforcement or other appropriate agency.
- A second offense will result in the expulsion of the offender from Beth-El College of Nursing & Health Sciences.

Responsibilities of the College

Federal guidelines require that we inform you:

- That you cannot bring in, use, or distribute illicit drugs or alcohol on school premises or as part of any school activities - this is a mandatory policy.
- That drug and alcohol use is wrong and harmful and what the health risks are.
- That help is available in combating drug and alcohol problems.
- That disciplinary actions will be taken for drug and alcohol violations. The law says discipline can include prosecution for illegal acts, as well as expulsion for students and loss of job for school employees.

Responsibilities of Students

You are expected to

- Follow our regulations and policy prohibiting the possession, use, or distribution of drugs and alcohol on school property or as part of any school activity.
- Participate in drug and alcohol education and prevention programs if you're a student.

“The Drug Free Schools & Communities Act” requires us to tell you of any help that's available for dealing with drug or alcohol problems. You can voluntarily make use of this help at any time.

Among the types of help offered in this community are:

- Individual or group counseling
- Attendance at drug or alcohol abuse/treatment or rehabilitation programs.

You can find out what's available from our counseling, student services offices, or your family doctor. Or you can look in the phone book under alcohol or drug treatment programs, contact a local hospital, social service agency, or the local "Help line" for advice.