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Notice to Health Sciences Students Regarding Immunizations and Health Screening

Dear Students:

As health professions students, you will be placed in situations where you may come in contact with transmissible diseases and with patients who are vulnerable to transmissible diseases. For this reason, standards for transmission prevention are very strict. Healthcare professionals are expected to get available vaccines for selected vaccine-preventable diseases and to be routinely screened for tuberculosis for the safety of their patients and themselves. Healthcare agencies hold students in the health professions to the same standards as their employees.

Our school operates under the auspices of a Clinical Placement Consortium of education programs and hospitals. This consortium has set standards for immunizations and testing of students and faculty that are agreed to by all the schools and hospitals. The standards are constantly being updated according to currently available information. Each school must comply with the Clinical Passport in order to continue to place students for clinical experiences.

The following updates and clarifications may be helpful to you in making sure you are compliant and able to attend clinical experiences.

New Requirements:

Two-step skin testing for Tuberculosis (Tuberculin Skin Test or TST; also known as a PPD)

The consortium requires that each student and faculty member have documentation that they have received a two-step TST, followed by a repeat TST once each subsequent year. We must now be able to document that each person has had two negative **TSTs that were done between seven and twenty-one days apart**. This means that the test placement dates must be at least seven and no more than twenty-one days apart. This also means that the two read dates must be no less than seven days and no more than twenty-one days apart.

Symptom checks for people who have tested positive on a TST

Individuals who have tested positive on a TST should not have further TSTs done. Instead, they are asked to get a chest x-ray every ten years to rule out active pulmonary tuberculosis.

Persons who have a negative chest x-ray must visit their health care provider and get a signed form documenting the absence of pulmonary tuberculosis symptoms within one year of the Initial x-ray, and then once per year after that.

If you are not sure about your two-step TST, or the need for getting a symptom checklist signed by a health care provider, please contact the HPSC office staff at (425) 388-9461.

Best Regards,

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Associate Dean of Nursing