SONORAN UNIVERSITY
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Vaccination Requirements

1. **POLICY STATEMENT/PURPOSE**
   To safeguard the health of onsite Sonoran University of Health Sciences community members including students, staff, faculty and patients; to prevent communicable diseases that could interrupt the educational process; to prevent the transmission of disease to our patients; and to prepare students for participating in clinical experiences.

2. **HISTORY/BACKGROUND**
   Sonoran University has mandated proof of immunity or declination of vaccination to Hepatitis B and testing for Tuberculosis for student clinicians, clinical instructors and staff since 2003. The influenza vaccine has also been offered to students, faculty and staff. With the increased prevalence of measles infections in 2015, this vaccination policy was revised to include proof of measles immunity or appropriate exemption. In 2019, Sonoran updated this policy to meet updated Tuberculosis screening guidelines. The policy was also updated to reflect different requirements for our onsite and online programs.

   In 2020, a global pandemic of the SARS-CoV-2 virus killed over a million people in the United States and altered the education of Sonoran students. In 2021, a vaccine became available. This policy was updated to reflect Sonoran's recommendation of this vaccination.

3. **DEFINITION(S)**
   a. Declination – to turn down or politely refuse to comply with policy item(s) for personal reasons.
   b. Exemption – release from or exception made to policy item(s) for a specific reason, i.e., religious belief or medical need.
   c. Onsite / On Campus – includes all Sonoran facilities and extended sites.

4. **SCOPE/KEY STAKEHOLDERS**
   This policy applies to all onsite students and employees. Distance learning students and remote employees are exempt from the vaccination requirement. However, if an online student or remote employee begins taking courses or is working on Sonoran's campus, they will become subject to the requirements outlined in this policy.

5. **POLICY ITEMS**
   a. All onsite Sonoran employees and students must provide sufficient documentation for measles (rubeola) immunity or documented exemption.
      i. Provide record of two doses of measles-containing vaccine (i.e. MMR) or
      ii. Provide proof of measles (rubeola) immunity via titer or
      iii. Provide laboratory confirmation that you had measles at some point in your life or
      iv. Provide documentation that you were born before 1957 or
      v. Complete religious exemption or
      vi. Complete medical exemption
   b. All clinical students, clinicians and medical center staff must complete the following within the procedures outlined by their department:

i. Hepatitis B
    1. Complete Hep B Acknowledgement Form and check appropriate box.
    2. Depending on response indicated on form:
        a. Provide proof of immunity via titer or
        b. Complete 3-dose series of immunizations or
        c. If declining vaccine, then no further documentation is needed
    3. Additional testing will be recommended as needed.

ii. Tuberculosis Screening
    1. Initial screening for employment and student enrollment
        a. Complete Two-Step Purified Protein Derivative Tuberculosis Test (PPD) or
        b. Complete TB Blood Test – either T-Spot or QuantiFERON
    2. If reactive to PPD skin test:
        a. Provide current chest x-ray with questionnaire or
        b. Complete TB Blood Test if false positive skin test is suspected
    3. If history of BCG vaccine administration
        a. Complete TB Blood Test
        b. Additional testing will be recommended as needed.

iii. Tdap, Varicella, Influenza, and COVID-19
    1. Sonoran encourages students to receive Tdap and Varicella immunization injections, as well as receive annual influenza immunizations.
    2. Some extended site community clinics require proof of immunity to or a record of these immunizations
    3. Sonoran University encourages all students and employees to stay current with their COVID-19 immunizations. Sonoran University will continue to monitor developments in connection with its COVID-19 mitigation efforts and may adjust these policies as it deems appropriate in light of changing circumstances
        a. Some extended site community clinics require proof of immunity to or a record of these immunizations.

c. Where deemed necessary (i.e., during an outbreak), the Executive Council may make temporary modifications to this policy including withholding employees and students without documented immunity from attending campus and off-site activities, including work, class, and clinical education.

6. RESONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Human Resources
Dean of Students
Admissions Department

The Director of Human Resources, in conjunction with the Chief Medical Officer and Dean of Students, will develop administrative regulations and procedures as necessary to implement policy, including provisions for notification, signage, disciplinary consequences, complaint procedures and enforcement.

7. RELATED DOCUMENTS
Religious Exemption Form
Medical Exemption Form

8. NEXT REVIEW DATE
Annual review

9. POLICY AUTHOR/CONTACT
Human Resources Director
Dean of Students

10. REFERENCES
Tuberculosis (TB) in Healthcare Settings
https://www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/tb.html

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Core Curriculum on Tuberculosis: What the Clinician Should Know. fourth Edition, 2000.

Measles (Rubeola) - https://www.cdc.gov/measles/about/faqs.html

- Review “Am I protected against measles?” and “Do I ever need a booster vaccine?

11. VERSION CONTROL AND CHANGE HISTORY

Version	Approved by	Date Approved	Date Effective	Amendment Information
1	President’s Council			
2	President’s Council	10/23/19	10/23/21	TB Screening
3	President’s Council	2/24/21	3/1/21	Covid updates
4	President’s Council	8/11/21	8/11/21	Covid updates
5	President’s Council	9/10/21	11/1/21	Covid updates
6	President’s Council	10/27/21	11/1/21	Covid updates
7	President’s Council	10/30/21	11/1/21	Covid updates
8	President’s Council	1/26/22	2/1/22	Covid updates
9	President’s Council	6/7/23	6/7/23	Covid and branding updates
10	N/A	N/A	3/13/26	Annual review complete, no edits