STUDENT IMMUNIZATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Background
Students involved in patient-care activities are at higher risk than the general population for acquiring vaccine preventable diseases. In addition, students who have one of these diseases may infect other personnel and patients within the facility. Such infections established in any health care facility are serious in their potential for medical and possible legal complications. Thus, all students visiting health service delivery sites as part of their educational program must follow provincial immunization guidelines as described in the Communicable Disease and Immunization Guidelines, BC Centre for Disease Control. These guidelines allow for the provision of publicly funded immunizations to health care workers and students.

Policy
The Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences requires all undergraduate students, and graduate students who will be in a direct patient care setting as part of their curriculum, to be fully compliant with the current guidelines against vaccine-preventable diseases prior to the commencement of such activities. These guidelines require students to have proof of their immunity status and clinical sites can request a copy of the immunization documentation from students at any time in preparation for or during a clinical placement. Failure to comply with the documentation requirements could result in the individual being barred from the clinical setting. All students will have their vaccination records reviewed by the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Students with a positive test result for any communicable disease may face restrictions in the course of their pharmacy training and may be constrained in their ability to practice.

Procedure
Prior to November 1st, or prior to the start of any clinical rotations or patient contact (whichever occurs first), all first-year undergraduate students are required to provide evidence of their immunization status with respect to a number of communicable diseases. Graduate students are required to provide evidence of their immunization prior to the start of any clinical rotations or patient contact. Documentation of disease and vaccinations must be provided through a written assessment from a health care provider (physician or nurse), and must include the type of disease/immunization, the date of the event, laboratory results (if required), and the signature of the health care provider. The Faculty’s suggested form for documentation is attached. This documentation must be provided to the Faculty’s Student Services Office and will be kept in the student’s record. Documentation must be provided for the current immunization status for the following diseases:

- Diphtheria and Tetanus
- Polio
- Varicella (Chickenpox)
• Measles, Mumps, Rubella
• Hepatitis B
• Tuberculosis

In addition, all students are required to obtain an influenza vaccination each year. If it is contraindicated for a student to receive the influenza vaccine, the student must have a current written prescription for antiviral medication. In the event of an influenza outbreak in the clinical agency in which a student is placed, evidence of a current influenza vaccination must be provided. Non-immunized students may be required to start antiviral medication or they may be prohibited from continuing their placement therefore delaying their progression in the program.