AAMC Standardized Immunization Form

Frequently Asked Questions

July 20, 2015

For more information on the AAMC Standardized Immunization Form, please visit www.aamc.org/immunizationform.

1. **Where did this AAMC Standardized Immunization Form come from?**
   The AAMC convened a working group through the Visiting Student Application Service that included member school representatives, registrars, public health experts and student health services representatives. This working group initially assessed whether a standardized immunization form was feasible and after determining it was, conducted significant outreach and research and developed this form over the course of a year.

2. **Where can I review the CDC's recommended vaccines for healthcare workers?**
   For information on the CDC Recommended Vaccines for Healthcare Workers, see the CDC website: http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/hcw.html .

3. **Should students or student health offices complete the form?**
   Students should complete the AAMC Standardized Immunization Form in conjunction with either the student health office at their medical school or with their primary care provider. The form does require the verification of a healthcare provider (other than the student) regarding the accuracy of the information contained in the form.

4. **Once the form is completed, how do students submit it?**
   If the host institution accepts VSAS applications:
   Students may upload the completed, verified form directly into VSAS.
   If the host institution does not accept VSAS applications:
   Students should send the completed, verified form per the host institution's application instructions.

5. **How do students submit documentation of immunizations, labs, medical records, etc. with the form?**
   If the host institution accepts VSAS applications:
   If necessary, additional documents (including labs, titer results, and other medical records associated with the immunizations) may be scanned with the form and uploaded directly into VSAS.

   If the host institution does not accept VSAS applications:
   If necessary, additional documents (including labs, titer results, and other medical records associated with the immunizations) should be sent with the form per the host institution's application instructions.

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6. **Can a host institution require information beyond what the AAMC Standardized Immunization Form collects?**
   Yes. Some host institutions require documentation of additional vaccinations that are not among those recommended by the CDC and not included on the AAMC Standardized Immunization Form. These institutions generally identify those additional requirements in their visiting student application instructions and often provide their own form for providing proof of immunization. The best source of information is on the VSAS institution's home page or the institution's website.

7. **Can I submit a state immunization form in lieu of the AAMC Standardized Immunization Form?**
   No. State immunization forms can be submitted as supporting documentation with the AAMC Standardized Immunization Form, but they do not replace the form.

8. **Where can I find a list of host institutions that accept the common immunization form?**
   A list of host institutions can be viewed at www.aamc.org/immunizationform.

9. **Can I use this form outside of VSAS?**
   Yes! AAMC intends this form to be available and used by member institutions and students whether they are participants in VSAS or not. Our belief is the widespread use of this form will save time and effort for everyone involved in the clinical education of medical students.

10. **How do students update their submitted form?**
    Generally, if a student has previously submitted an AAMC Standardized Immunization Form, and then updates his or her vaccinations, the student should complete a new AAMC Standardized Immunization Form to replace the outdated form.

11. **How do students update TB screening tests so they don't expire during their rotation?**
    Students should send new TB screening tests or symptom questionnaires to Host Institution.

12. **Are students required to get a flu vaccine between March and September when the vaccine is generally not available?**
    Most facilities want all healthcare providers and students vaccinated for influenza if they rotate at their facility between October and March. Flu vaccine generally isn't required if students rotate at the host facility outside of this time frame.

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13. How do students tell a host institution they are receiving treatment for latent TB and are cleared to work?

In the event students are being treated for latent TB, they should submit medical records documenting their diagnosis of latent (subclinical) TB, chest x-ray and treatment.

14. Is this form only to be used for visiting student rotations? Can residents use it?

AAMC developed this form for use in visiting student rotations. If medical schools and residency programs determine this form meets their documentation needs outside of the visiting student scenario, they are free to use it.

15. Why are quantitative titers required?

There are two major types of Hepatitis B Surface Antibody (HBsAB) Tests: Qualitative (i.e. present or absent) and Quantitative (specific standardized antibody level). Although both assays are testing for HbsAB, they are not interchangeable.

Quantitative assays are designed to yield an exact antibody level in international units per milliliter (IU/ml). The CDC and World Health Organization recommended that HbsAB level >10 IU/ml to determine if someone is immune to Hepatitis B.

Qualitative assays for HBsAB are positive when the result is greater than 5 IU/ml. Rather than reporting actual measurements the results are simply reported as positive or negative. A qualitative assay would therefore report a value of 5 IU/ml as positive. Because a positive qualitative assay cannot distinguish if the result is greater than 10 IU/ML, they cannot be cannot be used to determine immunity in healthcare workers. Qualitative testing is reserved for the determination of prior infection with Hepatitis B.

16. Has the LCME endorsed this form?

No, AAMC has not requested the LCME to review and endorse the AAMC Standardized Immunization Form. However, LCME Standard 12.7 says: "A medical school follows accepted guidelines in determining immunization requirements for its medical students." We believe that by building the AAMC Standardized Immunization Form around the CDC guidelines for healthcare workers that schools using this form will fully comply with LCME Standard 12.7.

17. Where do I send feedback, questions, and comments about the form?

Please send all feedback to cosr@aamc.org.

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