The University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Memphis, TN

POLICY ON INFECTION CONTROL FOR IMMUNIZATIONS
FOR MEDICAL AND DENTAL RESIDENTS

I. INTRODUCTION
The University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) will provide an environment for the safe conduct of its mission in education, research, community service, and patient care. This policy is intended to provide reasonable protection for medical and dental residents against the transmission of infectious diseases within the environment of an educational and health care institution. University Health Services (UHS) is responsible for the implementation and interpretation of this policy. A provider may be reached at (901) 448-5630 at any time.

II. REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS
All medical and dental residents are required to have the following immunizations documented by titers, except for Tdap which documentation of the vaccine is acceptable, from other institutions or in University Health Services by their first day of employment and prior to any patient care activities.

a. Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis)
b. MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella)
c. Polio
d. Varicella
e. Hepatitis B

III. Meningococcal Vaccine
The meningococcal vaccine is available for any trainee that wishes to have it. It is provided at no cost via the resident health insurance plan.

IV. NEW HIRES/PRE-EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENT
All UTHSC residents are required to have documentation of the required immunizations listed in this policy to the satisfaction of University Health Services by their first day of employment and prior to any patient care activities or they may not begin their training program. UHS requires documentation of immunity via titers (except Tdap) and will accept this documentation from trainee’s prior medical schools and hospitals. UHS can draw titers for incoming trainees at their own personal expense. Residents may elect to receive an immunization at no cost via their GME health insurance plan on their first day of employment. Residents that elect to receive an immunization that is a series of shots may begin working once they have received the first shot and continue as long as they remain current with the subsequent mandated shots.
V. EXISTING RESIDENTS REQUIREMENT
All residents must have documented all required immunizations by their first day of employment. Any resident that is in the process of a series of shots for a required immunization will continue working while current in the series. When the next shot in the series is due, the resident is expected to go to UHS on the day specified. The resident will be given two weeks from the date specified by UHS and after that time will be removed from the program and placed on leave without pay until the shot is received. After GME verification from UHS of receiving the shot the resident may return to work. Should the University mandate a new immunization requirement all current residents must receive/document this immunization by the deadline set forth in the notification or will be removed from their training program and placed on leave without pay until it is secured.

VI. UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES
UHS has the final authority to determine what documentation they will accept. All requirements given by UHS must be followed by each resident and their training program. Failure to follow the guidelines may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination from the program. No resident may begin training until they are cleared by UHS.

VII. COMMUNICATION
UHS is responsible for documenting all immunization records for residents. UHS is responsible for communicating in a timely manner with the GME Office the status of all residents regarding immunization particularly those that are deficient. It is the responsibility of the GME Office to communicate with the residents and training programs for those individuals that are deficient and may not begin training.