



## FAQ: REQUIRED SHOTS AND BLOOD TESTS

### **Where can I get these tests?**

Most health care providers or your County Health Dept. can help you with these tests and immunizations. There is a charge for each of these. CBU has an arrangement with UTHSC University Health Services to offer a discount to CBU students. *University Health Services can provide these vaccines or blood tests before admission by making an appointment. Contact for appointments:*

UTHSC UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES (UHS)  
Phone: (901) 448-5630, Fax (901) 448-7255  
910 Madison Avenue, Suite 922 (Plaza Building)  
Memphis, TN 38163

### **What is a titer?**

A titer is a blood test that determines if you have immunity to a particular disease. Commonly required titers are for chickenpox, hepatitis, mumps, measles, and rubella.

### **What if I do not have a positive titer for Hepatitis B or I do not convert to positive after my series of three shots?**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that if a person fails to convert after the 3 shot series, the series should be repeated once. If the repeat titer remains negative, no further shots are recommended.

### **How long is my immunity after the Hepatitis B series of shots?**

Immunity may be for a life time but it varies with each individual. CDC recommends a follow-up titer every 4 years to determine if your immunity has changed.

### **Why am I required to have the varicella antibody titer if I know I had chickenpox as a child?**

You must have proof of immunity which can be shown by a lab test (varicella antibody titer). If you have a negative titer, you must get the shots to prevent you from getting the disease. This is a series of 2 shots for a cost of around \$200.

### **Do I have to get a meningitis shot?**

Not required but recommended.

### **What will happen if I don't complete all of my vaccines before orientation?**

You will need to make an appointment at your private doctor or University Health Services to get caught up on your shots and blood tests. You have until the end of the semester to get started on all that you can. If you do not get started or attempt to complete your immunizations, your name will be given to your Dean at the close of the semester.

## FAQ: TB SKIN TESTING OR BLOOD TESTS

### **Why do I need a TB Skin test every year?**

If you are a health care worker or around health care workers in your job, you need to be screened for exposure to tuberculosis every year. TB is an airborne disease that is a risk for all health care professionals.

### **What is a TB Quantiferon Blood test or TSpot test?**

The Quantiferon Gold TB test or T Spot is a blood test for screening for exposure for TB if you have a history of a previous positive response to the PPD. It can also validate a past positive TB skin test and determine more accurately if you have been exposed to TB. This test is offered at UHS.

### **What if I have a positive TB skin test?**

If you have a history of a positive TB skin test, you must be cleared from a US County Health Dept. and show UHS a card demonstrating this clearance. If you do not have that card, UHS will either offer you the T SPOT TB TEST or refer you to the Memphis Shelby County Health Dept. for clearance.