

# FAQ'S

## **What if I am unable to obtain documentation for my childhood vaccines?**

If official documentation is not obtainable from your physician's office, primary or secondary school or military records, the following is recommended:

1. Receive two-step TB testing (see below)
2. Receive a Tetanus Booster
3. Have the following blood tests drawn – Rubeola antibody IgG, Mumps antibody IgG, Rubella antibody IgG. If you have completed the Hepatitis B series also have a Hepatitis B Surface antibody test drawn.
4. If you have had chickenpox, have a varicella antibody IgG drawn. If you have not had chickenpox receive 2 doses of vaccine.

## **Do I have to get a MMR titer if I have documentation of two vaccines?**

Yes, a titer is the best way of determining immunity to Rubeola, Rubella and Mumps. If your titer lab results return negative for Rubeola, Rubella or Mumps then a booster will be required. Another titer will be done 4 – 6 weeks later to determine your level of immunity. Remember your goal is to achieve positive immunity for the safety of patients.

## **I had the Hepatitis B Vaccine years ago but did not get a titer, what should I do?**

If you have documentation of all three doses of Hepatitis B Vaccine have a titer drawn to see if you have antibodies (HBSAB). If the test is negative get a booster then re-titer in 1-2 months. If this test is negative, you will have to repeat the series then re-titer 1-2 months later. If no documentation is available from your original series, you will need to repeat the series then have a titer drawn 1-2 months later.

## **I had chickenpox, do I have to get a have titer?**

YES. Most people who have had the disease will develop antibodies, however because there are some that may not, a titer is required. We have found about 8% of our health profession students with a history of disease have negative titers. Some histories are not totally reliable. For these reasons, we have to be 100% certain that we do our part to prevent the spread of this disease, to our patients. If your titer is positive, no further action is necessary. If your test is negative, you will have to get 2 doses of varicella vaccine.

## **What if I have had one dose of Varicella vaccine?**

You will need to get one more dose of Varicella vaccine at least 4 – 6 weeks after your first dose. Do not get a VZVigg (Varicella titer ) if you have had 1 dose of vaccine.

## **I had two doses of Varicella vaccine, do I need to have a titer drawn?**

No, the requirement is **either** a positive Varicella titer (VZVIGG) **OR** 2 doses of the varicella vaccine. A titer after the vaccine is not required.

## **What is a Two-step TB test and do I need it?**

A two-step TB test is simply having a TB test administered, then having another one administered 1- 3 weeks later. If you receive annual TB tests, you can submit your last 2 testing dates to meet the TB requirement. If you have not had a TB test within the past 2 years you will need to obtain a two-step test. Two-step testing is required for the initial skin testing of adults who are going to be tested periodically, such as health care workers. This two-step approach can reduce the likelihood that a boosted reaction to a subsequent skin test will be misinterpreted as a recent infection. For more information on two-step testing: [www.cdc.gov/tb](http://www.cdc.gov/tb)

## **Why does UHS use encrypted Bearcat e-mail to communicate with me?**

University Health Services has taken measures to secure electronic transmission of your personal information. The encrypted email will be sent to a secure portal <https://securemail.uc.edu>. An email with a link to the UC secure messaging portal will be sent to you. You will have to log into the Zix Port© to read the body of the information. **It is important for you to remember that you have 14 days to retrieve your personal health information. After 14 days your message is automatically discarded.**