



**Policy for Immunization and Health Records**  
Welcome to Saba University School of Medicine!

**1. Newly Accepted Students**

**a) Communicable diseases**

Before students start their first semester at Saba University School of Medicine (SUSOM), each **MUST** provide lab reports to the School with blood tests for antibody titers that show immunity to the following five (5) diseases:

- Mumps
- Measles
- Chicken Pox
- Rubella (German measles)
- Hepatitis B

Important note: The titers must be quantitative (numeric) rather than qualitative (positive/negative). If you are not able to provide quantitative titers, they will need to be repeated.

Students should obtain these five (5) titer blood tests by a referral through their doctor's office or the local clinic. These test results can take several weeks, so starting early is important.

**All titer reports and vaccination records should be sent to the Admissions Office (Devens, MA):**

Saba University School of Medicine  
C/O R3 Education Inc. 27 Jackson Road, Suite  
301 Devens, Massachusetts, 01434

**Positive or immune numeric titers:** The student must provide a copy of the vaccination report, with dates of administration, to support the titers. If no vaccination confirmation is available, then the student must repeat the vaccination series.

**Negative, Indeterminate or non-numeric titers:** For Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella, the student must provide proof of two (2) doses of the vaccine administered after the date of the negative titer and then subsequent repeat titer (4 weeks or more after vaccination) showing a positive or immune numeric titer.

**Negative or Indeterminate Hepatitis B Titer:** Please contact [AnnualCompliance@saba.edu](mailto:AnnualCompliance@saba.edu) for detailed instructions on how to proceed.



Important: For students accepted into SUSOM less than six (6) weeks before the start date of the first semester, it may not be possible to complete these five (5) blood tests. In this case, these titer tests are to be completed in the vacation period between 1st and 2nd semester. Students should immediately send any test results and vaccination records to the Clinical Office ([AnnualCompliance@saba.edu](mailto:AnnualCompliance@saba.edu)). Failure to comply will place the student at risk of suspension.

### **b) Tetanus immunization**

Students must have a Tetanus immunization that is valid until the projected date for completion of the SUSOM 4-Year MD Program. Please note, proof of a Tdap vaccination as an adult is required, in addition to the most recent Td vaccination, if applicable.

### **c) Health status**

If your health status has changed since completion of the application for admission to SUSOM, please inform the Admissions Office. This includes newly diagnosed conditions and major changes in prescribed medications. Please note, students should use the provided SUSOM physical examination form. This form will be released to your future clinical clerkship sites.

## **2. Preparing for Clinical Rotations**

### **a) General requirements**

During the 6th semester of the 4-Year MD Program, students take the USMLE Step 1. To receive approval for USMLE Step 1 registration, students must meet SUSOM's annual compliance requirements:

- Basic life support certification
- Annual flu shot
- Current health insurance
- Annual physical examination
- Titer documentation
- Two-step PPD or IGRA
- Tetanus immunization
- Drug screen
- Background screen
- Valid passport/ID

These requirements will be reviewed with every student during the 5th semester.



## **b) Tuberculosis (TB) status**

All students are required to provide either a two-step TB skin test (PPD) or an IGRA (such as the Quantiferon Gold test). Students who have a positive first step TB skin test do not receive the second skin test of the two-step skin test protocol. Students who are able to provide proof of prior 2-step TB skin test do not need to repeat the 2-step technique, but will need to provide documentation of an annual 1-step PPD following the initial 2-step PPD. If documentation of an annual 1-step PPD is not available, then students must get another 2-step PPD.

Students with a positive TB screen, either recent or distant, will require a chest radiograph and evaluation by a TB specialist (TB clinic, Pulmonologist or ID specialist) for consideration of treatment and a letter of clearance. Students with a prior positive PPD should not repeat a PPD. Students with a prior positive PPD must provide a copy of the test results. Based on CDC recommendations, a prior BCG vaccine is not explanatory of a positive PPD and thus does not alter TB evaluation recommendations.

## **c) Health insurance**

Before starting rotations, students will be required to show documentary proof of valid U.S. health insurance (as well as Canadian health insurance, if applicable), covering all clerkships and locations. The proof should include policy coverage start and expiration dates. If the student is covered by a spouse's insurance, then the student **MUST** provide proof of coverage under that policy with a letter from the insurance provider or an insurance card.

Canadian Students are responsible for making sure that their Canadian health insurance provides sufficient coverage for the student while in the U.S. If Canadian coverage does **NOT** sufficiently cover the student when in the U.S., the student must purchase supplemental insurance.

All students must provide proof of insurance no later than six (6) weeks prior to the start of a scheduled clerkship. Many providers will allow students to purchase health insurance in advance. While SUSOM encourages students to purchase a policy that covers the student until the projected graduation date, at a minimum the insurance **MUST** cover the duration of any scheduled clerkship. Clerkships will not be scheduled, nor will students be allowed to start any clerkship, without proper documentation that includes proof of health insurance.

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