

Penn State University Park General Clinical Research Center Infectious Disease Prevention Policy

Purpose

Prevent the transmission of vaccine preventable disease and to safeguard the health of research volunteers and research personnel.

Background

Inasmuch as the University Park GCRC is a part of the Hershey Medical Center GCRC, the GCRC at University Park will follow the Infectious Disease Prevention Program of the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, as much as this is possible.

Persons Affected

All personnel employed by the GCRC who participate in the research experience or observation and have potential for direct research volunteer contact (hands-on contact) during the time a subject is in the GCRC will be included in this program. Other personnel working in the GCRC who have potential for direct research volunteer contact or observation, but who are not employed by the GCRC, may consider participating in this program, in part or whole, at their own cost.

Policy

Participation in the program will include:

1. Demonstration of current immunization status for Diphtheria/Tetanus and Polio by providing dates of vaccinations and/or receiving vaccination provided by Employee Health Service or provided by University Health Services.
2. Demonstration of current immunization status for Hepatitis B by providing dates of vaccinations, or confirmation of immunization status on blood testing, or receiving vaccination provided by University Health Service or signing a waiver indicating refusal to accept vaccination.
3. Demonstration of current immune status for Rubeola.
4. Demonstration of current immune status to Rubella.
5. Demonstration of current tuberculosis exposure status.
6. Demonstration of having had chicken pox or consenting to laboratory evaluation of VZV status.
7. Re-assessment on an annual basis of tuberculosis exposure status and re-evaluation of immune status to and/or history of all vaccine preventable disease with update of vaccination status if appropriate.

Vaccine Preventable Disease Policy Execution

To facilitate this screening, all GCRC employees who have direct research volunteer contact will be contacted by University Health Services to set up the health assessment interview. UHS will perform any lab screenings and vaccinations required. Completion of the health assessment will be forwarded to the GCRC. All health assessments must be completed prior to beginning work with research volunteers.

Body Fluids Handling and Exposures

All GCRC employees who work with human blood or body fluids are required to complete the Bloodborne Pathogen Training offered by Penn State's Office of Environmental Health and Safety. The on-line course can be found at www.ehs.psu.edu.

All GCRC employees are expected to report any infection, all exposure to infectious disease, blood, blood products or body fluids to their immediate supervisor.