Immunization Policies

All residents enrolled at AU are required to meet the immunization requirements listed below:

**REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS FOR THE DENTAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA**

**MMR--**Measles, Mumps, Rubella Vaccine. Two doses at least 28 days apart after 12 months of age or clinical evidence of immunity (titer), (lab report required), meets the program requirement. For students born before 1957, proof of immunity (titer) is required. If you are not immune (negative titer) you will need to complete the series of 2 doses of MMR vaccine with an interval of at least 28 days between doses.

**Polio--**Documentation of the original 4 dose childhood vaccine series or 3 dose adult vaccine series meets the program requirement. For unvaccinated adults proof of immunity (titer) is required. If the polio titer is negative, a 3 dose vaccine series will need to be completed and submit documentation of each injection as it is received.

**Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis --**Documentation of at least 2 doses (DTap, DTP, DT or Td) and TDAP (administered on or after 6/10/2005) meets the program requirement. For unvaccinated adults, the TDaP should be administered as the first dose, with the second dose (Td) at least 4 weeks apart and the third dose (Td) 6–12 months after the second. If incompletely vaccinated (i.e., less than 3 doses of the primary series), remaining doses will need to be administered based on the schedule above (TDAP can be substituted for a single dose of the series).

**Tdap --**A Tdap vaccine administered after 06/10/2005 is required.

**Tetanus Booster--**The most recent dose of the Tetanus vaccine (Td or TdaP) must be less than 10 years old.

**Varicella --**Documentation (LAB REPORT REQUIRED) of lab evidence of immunity (Varicella IgG titer) meets the program requirement. Proof of chickenpox disease does not meet the program requirement. If your varicella titer result is negative, make sure the correct titer was performed, IgG, not IgM. If your Varicella IgG titer is negative, please submit these results and you will need to submit proof of the Varivax series of two injections, given at least four weeks apart, followed by a Varicella IgG titer 30 days after your second injection of Varivax. Please submit documentation after receiving each injection and the titer results (lab report required) after completing the series. If you submit proof of the Varivax series of 2 injections and your titer is negative, please call Employee Health at 706-721-3418 to receive additional information.

**Hepatitis B --**Three dose hepatitis B series (0,1-2 and 4-6 months schedule) OR three dose combined hepatitis A and hepatitis B series (0,1-2,6-12 months schedule) OR Two dose hepatitis B series of Recombivax (0 and 4-6 months schedule, given at 11-15 years of age and a positive Hepatitis B Surface Antibody titer (quantitative value blood test) meets the program requirement. The titer should be drawn 1 month after the last vaccine is given. Please submit documentation of each injection as it is received and the titer result (the lab report is required).

If you started the Hepatitis B vaccine series in the past but did not complete it, you do not need to start the series again. If the vaccine series was interrupted after the first dose, the second dose should be administered as soon as possible. The third dose should be received at least 8 weeks after the second dose. If only the third dose is delayed, it should be administered as soon as possible. The titer should be drawn 30 days after the last dose.

If the result of the (quantitative value) hepatitis b surface antibody titer (immunity status) is negative, please submit this results/lab report. You will need to have a Hepatitis B Surface Antigen titer (this is a different blood test from
the Hep B surface antibody titer) drawn to prove that you do not have the disease and submit these results prior to the start of class. You will also need to begin a second series of three Hepatitis B injections. Thirty days after the 3rd vaccine is given, you will need to have a repeat Hepatitis B Surface Antibody titer (quantitative blood test). Please submit documentation of each injection as you receive it and the titer result. The lab report for the titers is required. If after the second series of injections your titer is still negative, you may be a non-responder. Since you do not have adequate immunity, you will need to sign a waiver indicating that you will immediately report any blood or body fluid contact with Hepatitis B so you may receive prophylaxis (Hepatitis B Immune Globulin).

**Hepatitis C**- A hepatitis C antibody titer (blood test) is required. The lab report is required.

**HIV**-- A HIV ½ Screen with reflex to WB (blood test) is required. The lab report is required.

**Tuberculosis (PPD) Skin Test (Mantoux)/TB Testing**- The PPD skin test must be administered/read no more than 3 days prior to the start of class. Repeat testing is required annually.

If you have or have a history of a positive PPD skin test, or have taken BCG vaccine in the past, you must submit a lab report for a TSpot or Quantiferon Gold lab test completed no more than 3 months prior to the start of class. If the TSpot or Quantiferon Gold is Positive, then results to a chest x-ray (completed after the date of the test) must be submitted along with the lab report of the positive test. Once you have had a positive QFT AND a negative chest x-ray (x-ray must be performed after your positive test), counseling on treatment for latent TB and completion of the TB symptoms checklist (signed by your provider) will be required annually.

**Influenza Vaccination**- Please check with your program director as some programs REQUIRE the flu shot annually. A new version of the influenza vaccination is released each year, typically in August. Therefore, vaccinations for the fall semester must be administered after August 1 of the current year. Adequate documentation must provide information proving that the vaccine was administered.

**Meningitis Vaccine**--The meningitis vaccine is not required unless you plan to live in an on-campus dorm. However, it is highly recommended for all students. Please submit documentation to Campus Housing as well as the immunizations office.

The institution encourages and promotes this policy to help prevent morbidity and mortality of students, residents, patients, staff and faculty. Students and residents may choose to seek the necessary preventive care form private practitioners or Employee/Occupational Health.