


Title: Health and Safety Requirements Policy	
Written by: Dean Nursing & Health Sciences; Director, Student Services	
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Approved by:  <hr/> Chancellor	Governing Board Approval: <hr/> Date
<hr/> Date	<hr/> Date

PURPOSE

It is the student's responsibility to meet the health and safety requirements of the College throughout a student's program of study, to provide the College with updated documentation of meeting the requirements, and to maintain immunizations, tuberculosis testing, and educational (CPR & OSHA) records. Denial of access to clinical experiences and failure of clinical courses will result if the health and safety requirements are not completed according to established protocols or if the procedure for documentation of release for clinical experiences (see below) is not followed.

DEFINITIONS

Illness

- Students should report all health problems that necessitate absence from class or clinical to the Course Coordinator or Clinical Faculty. Students should follow the program protocol to report an absence if they are unable to attend class or clinical. Students are expected to report all absences. Clinical absences may result in loss of grade points as described in specific program policies or require clinical make-up.
- Students are not to seek medical advice from physicians while on the clinical units, but are encouraged to seek medical advice from their personal physician.
- Upon graduation from the College, all students may request a copy of their health records. The College recommends that students retain these records. During the program, the student can review his/her health record upon request to Trinity College's health requirements coordinator.
- If a student's status becomes questionable due to a health problem, the recommendation of the student's physician concerning attendance or continuation of the program will be honored.
- Contracts with other agencies define treatment of students who become ill at their facility. Contract specifications are followed up by the appropriate Program Chair/Director.

- Trinity College will abide by the medical center policy regarding whether a student can be on clinical with a medical device/restriction, such as a cast. Generally, such devices prohibit ability to perform direct patient care and are therefore not permitted.
- Students must bring a physician release to the Program Chair/Director before returning to class/clinical after surgery, childbirth, medical-surgical health problems, or workmen's compensation absence.

Infection Control

All students must adhere to the following:

- Complete blood-borne pathogen Cornerstone module by assigned completion date.
- Adhere to the principles of handwashing prior to and following patient care for each patient.
- Practice good personal hygiene in care of self and clothing (i.e., scrubs and uniforms).
- Practice techniques taught to protect from injuries with needles and sharp objects.
- Report any possible communicable disease to the Program Chair/Director for an evaluation prior to participating in clinical care or attending classes. A student may be asked to provide a physician's evaluation of a condition prior to returning to clinical and classes.
- Report any Unusual Occurrence, such as exposure to a communicable disease, accidental injury, or other injury to the Clinical Instructor immediately so an evaluation of the injury, Unusual Occurrence Report, and further treatment/evaluation follow-up can be carried out.
- Blood-borne pathogen exposure from a sharps injury is reported immediately to the Clinical Instructor. An Occurrence Report is completed and lab testing for the student and the source is drawn immediately. The student will report to the Employee Health Department for counseling and discussion of further testing at three and six months.

POLICY

General Health Requirements

Upon entering the College all students are required to acknowledge, by signature, on the Clinical Performance Standards Form, that they are physically able to perform (with or without reasonable accommodations) the essential functions required of a health sciences or nursing student.

Prior to beginning courses, students must provide a physical examination form, which is less than one year old and signed by a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. The form must be submitted to Trinity College's health requirements coordinator confirming that they have the physical and mental ability to provide safe and effective care. Students must also provide documentation indicating that they are immune to or have been immunized against:

- Measles, Mumps, Rubella
- Varicella (Chicken Pox)
- Hepatitis B (Optional, but highly recommended)
- Tuberculosis (TB)
- Tetanus (within the last 10 years)
- Pertussis (Optional, but highly recommended)
- COVID-19 (Optional, but highly recommended)

Measles, Mumps, and Rubella immunity can be documented with any one of these records:

- records of two immunizations against Measles, Mumps, & Rubella (baseline and one month from baseline)
- positive results of antibody titers for all three diseases

Varicella immunity can be documented with these papers:

- two records of the immunization against Varicella (Varivax series if no history of Varicella)
- positive results of a Varicella antibody titer

Hepatitis B immunizations are not required but are highly recommended for all students. Students who wish to decline being vaccinated against Hepatitis B must fill out a declination form provided by the College at the student's request.

Students who wish to become vaccinated against Hepatitis B should follow the recommended series of three injections, the second injection being given one month after the first, and the third injection being given six months after the first. The hepatitis B antibody titer should be drawn 1-5 months after the series is completed but may be drawn at any interval following the completion of the series. Positive titer results at any time are believed to infer lifelong immunity, even if later titers report negative results. If the titer does not show immunity, the student can repeat the series if they wish. Students who still have a lack of immunity after the second series are considered to be non-immune to Hepatitis B.

Tuberculosis testing for new and returning Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences and Associate of Science in Radiography students is required by following a two-step tuberculosis (TB) test process. One TB test must have been completed and documented within 12 months prior to entrance into the program of study. Retesting and documentation are required every four years after a documented two-step TB test process.

Nursing students and other students attending clinical at any Genesis Health System site must also show documentation that they are free from active tuberculosis. This should be documented by a QuantiFERON®– TB Gold test. If the QuantiFERON®– TB Gold test is positive, a chest x-ray confirming the student is free of active tuberculosis is required. QuantiFERON®– TB Gold tests will be accepted if completed within six months prior to entering the College.

Protection against tetanus is demonstrated by documentation of a tetanus immunization within the past ten (10) years from a student's start at Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences. Tetanus must be updated with any breach in skin integrity.

Pertussis vaccine is optional for students, but highly recommended.

Annual Seasonal Influenza immunizations are required for all students. The vaccination is administered, free of charge, to students at the College or UnityPoint Health, Trinity in the fall of each year. If a student has received a seasonal influenza immunization elsewhere, the student must provide Trinity College's health requirements coordinator with documentation of the immunization to be in compliance of this hospital requirement.

COVID-19 vaccinations are not required but are highly recommended for all students. Students who wish to decline must fill out the declination form.

Safety Training

Mandatory Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) training prior to clinical participation is required to be updated annually for continuing students. Students must also complete all required safety education that a clinical site may require before attending clinical.

Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification

Prior to matriculation into the College, students must provide Trinity College's health requirements coordinator with proof of completion of CPR for Health Care Providers (Basic Life Support) from the American Heart Association. An educational transcript from an approved health care employer showing the date of prior CPR training is sufficient evidence of course completion. The College, in collaboration with UnityPoint Health, provides CPR course offerings throughout the year.

CPR certification must be renewed every two years and documentation of current certification must be provided to Trinity College's health requirements coordinator. A current CPR certification is required for participation in clinical experiences.

Students are not permitted to attend clinical without meeting all of the health and safety requirements of the College.

PROCEDURES

Health Record Clinical Authorization

Prior to matriculation and at designated intervals in a program, students must provide Trinity College's health requirements coordinator with the required health and safety information. It is the student's responsibility to maintain records of immunization, CPR, and TB testing throughout the educational program and to submit copies of updated records to Trinity College's health requirements coordinator.