

Enterprise Health Immunizations & Titters Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What do my titer results mean?

Response: When a titer is drawn, your blood is tested for antibodies. A positive result means that antibodies are present and in high enough quantity to be considered protected. A negative result means the number of antibodies are too low, so there is not adequate protection to prevent you from contracting that disease.

Question: What do I do if my titer results are negative?

Response: Additional vaccines are required, but the number of doses needed depends on which titer is negative. Varicella and MMR are a two-dose series. For Hepatitis B we recommend the two-dose Heplisav vaccine series and then a follow-up titer is drawn 30 days after to prove immunity.

Question: What if I have an incomplete vaccine series documented?

Response: If you have an incomplete series (example: only one dose of MMR out of a two-dose series) blood titers will be drawn first. If the results are positive (antibodies are present), you would not require additional vaccines. If the titer is negative, you would need to complete the 2nd dose to be cleared for employment.

Question: If one of my measles, mumps or rubella (MMR) titers come back negative, do I still need to get the MMR vaccine?

Response: Yes. Even though the results may indicate protection against 2 out of 3 viruses, there is not adequate protection for the one that is negative. To be considered fully protected, you will require a single dose or two-dose series depending on which titer is negative.

Question: If I've completed the three dose Hepatitis B vaccination series why do I need a titer or additional vaccines?

Response: Even though the series has been completed, a titer is required to prove immunity. If the titer is negative, the person is not protected and additional vaccinations are recommended.

Question: Do I still need to have a tuberculosis (TB) screen if I already had one within the past year?

Response: Applicants are required by policy to have a tuberculosis (TB) screen completed during the pre-placement health assessment. If a negative tuberculosis screen was performed within the last two months, it can be submitted to OHS for review. Exceptions are made for applicants who have a history of active/latent TB treatment.

Question: What if I have a history of positive tuberculosis skin tests?

Response: We use the QuantiFERON (QFT) Gold blood test to screen Michigan Medicine applicants and employees for tuberculosis. This test is different than the tuberculosis skin test, so the QFT can still be used unless the individual also has a history of tuberculosis or tuberculosis treatment.

Question: What if I had the BCG vaccine as a child?

Response: The BCG vaccine can yield false positive results with the tuberculosis skin test, but receiving the BCG vaccine will not impact the result of the QuantiFERON Gold blood test.

Question: Do you accept other Tetanus and Diphtheria vaccines besides Tdap?

Response: No. A single dose of the Tdap vaccine (received in 2005 or later) is required. Booster doses (received every 10 years) are not required, but strongly recommended.

Question: Can I get a Tdap booster through Occupational Health Services?

Response: No. Boosters doses should be obtained from a local pharmacy or through your primary care provider.

Question: When do I need to get an influenza vaccine?

Response: Flu season starts in September and all workforce members are required to become compliant by December 1st. New employees onboarded after December 1st will also need to be compliant with the influenza requirement as a condition of employment. Once the Michigan Medicine epidemiologist determines flu season is over, the influenza vaccine will no longer be required until the next flu season begins.

Question: I already had a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine, do I need to have another one?

Response: Anyone hired after 05/15/2023 is required to have one dose of the bivalent booster or an approved medical or religious exemption.