



# University of Tennessee Southern Immunization Requirements

## Hepatitis B Form

This form is required of all students.

Hepatitis B is a serious disease that affects the liver and can result in lifelong infection, cirrhosis (scarring) of the liver, liver cancer, liver failure and even death. The illness comes in acute as well as in chronic form. Either way, a hepatitis B infection can go completely unrecognized. However, the hepatitis B virus is 50 – 100 times more infectious than HIV. The infection is preventable by vaccination.

Symptoms of hepatitis B can resemble the flu and may include fever, loss of appetite, low energy, joint pain, cramping or nausea and vomiting as well as jaundice (yellow skin or eyes). However, in about 30% of cases, hepatitis B causes no symptoms. Approximately one million people are chronic carriers of the disease, meaning they have no symptoms and may not know they are infected, but are still able to transmit the disease to others. There is no cure for hepatitis B.

Hepatitis B is contagious and spreads when the blood or other body fluids of a person with the virus are absorbed into an individual’s blood stream through broken skin or mucous membranes. The virus can live in all body fluids including blood, saliva, semen, and vaginal fluids. It can enter the body through cuts or abrasions in the skin and through mucous membranes of the mouth, vagina, anus, and eyes. Hepatitis B can be transmitted through sexual contact; during contact sports; by helping someone who is injured; by sharing razors, toothbrushes, pierced earrings, or injection drug paraphernalia; or by getting a tattoo or body piercing using non-sterilized instruments. Anyone who comes in contact with blood or body fluids of an infected person is at risk for hepatitis B.

College students may be at higher risk for hepatitis B. The highest rate of disease occurs in individuals between the age of 20 and 49. Living in close quarters, like a college dormitory, may increase the risk of exposure to carriers. College students may be exposed to the virus during sexual contact, getting a body piercing or tattoo, sharing needles or razors, during contact sports and other high-risk behaviors. Students in Health Science programs may be exposed to body fluids or tissues from patients with hepatitis B infection and may be at an increased risk for hepatitis B.

The hepatitis B vaccine is safe and effective. You cannot get the disease from the vaccine. Vaccination requires a series of three shots over a six month period. The vaccine protects 96% of those who complete the three shot series. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccination of everyone age 18 and under. The American College Health Association (ACHA) recommends that all college students be vaccinated. Hepatitis B vaccines may be obtained from your personal physician or your public health center.

I have received detailed information concerning the risk factors for hepatitis B infection and the availability and effectiveness of vaccine for persons who are at-risk of the disease.

I have received and reviewed the information, and have chosen to:

be vaccinated (or am already vaccinated)

not to be vaccinated

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID Number (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*For students under the age of 18:*

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### STUDENT:

Submit the completed Hepatitis B Form and all other related documents through MedProctor. Under Document Type, select “Hepatitis B Form.” You will need your UT Southern student email address to create an account.

**All immunization records must be submitted or a hold will be placed on your account and this will limit your ability to register for/change classes and to move into on campus housing.**