

# Influenza Vaccination for Medical Students

## Drexel University College of Medicine

### DUCOM Influenza Vaccination Policy

All medical students are required to be vaccinated yearly with the seasonal influenza vaccine. Documentation of vaccination must be submitted to the Office of Documentation Surveillance ([IMMSURV@drexel.edu](mailto:IMMSURV@drexel.edu)) by **October 15, 2024** (Some clinical sites may have an earlier deadline). Failure to complete this requirement will result in the suspension of any Health Sciences Building or West Reading on-campus or clinical rotation attendance.

If there is a medical contraindication to influenza vaccination, documentation including the specific contraindication to vaccination is required from the student's health care provider to the Office of Documentation Surveillance.

### Vaccination Options:

- 1. Drexel Student Health Center Influenza Vaccination Clinic:** The clinic is offering a seasonal influenza vaccination clinic for medical students at Drexel Student Health Center on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00am – 4:00pm. Please see the attached flyer for more details. You must pre-register for this event and insurance will be billed.
2. Some of our clinical affiliates will also offer seasonal influenza vaccine to students who are rotating at these sites, though this may be associated with a charge. Please check with the individual site where you are rotating.
3. Alternatively, you can be vaccinated through your own health care provider or through a local pharmacy. Most insurance companies cover the cost of vaccination, though you may have a co-pay.
- 4. Regardless of where you obtain your seasonal influenza vaccination, you must obtain documentation of vaccination.** Please keep a copy and be prepared to take it with you on all rotations as you may be asked for documentation of vaccination on the first day of your rotation. **You must also submit a copy of this documentation to the Documentation Surveillance Office ([IMMSURV@drexel.edu](mailto:IMMSURV@drexel.edu)).** **Note: Your influenza vaccination document must include the following information:**

- a. Student full name
- b. Student's second identifier (DOB, address, etc.)
- c. Vaccine Name (ex: Flucelvax)
- d. Lot Number (ex: XY123)
- e. NDC (National Drug Code, ex: 1234567890)
- f. Manufacturer (ex: Seqirus)
- g. Date of Vaccine Administration
- h. Date of Expiration
- i. Name, title, and address of individual administering vaccination

***\*Regardless of which vaccination option you utilize, it is your responsibility to get your influenza***

*vaccination by October 15, 2024.*

**General Recommendations during Influenza Season**

**1. Stay home if you develop symptoms consistent with an influenza-like illness:**

Influenza symptoms: Fever (100.4 °F or greater) and respiratory symptoms (cough and/or sore throat) in the absence of a KNOWN cause other than influenza.

2. If you become ill during the day with fever and respiratory symptoms, you should notify your team and go home promptly.
3. If you are ill with an influenza-like illness, you should self-isolate from others in your apartment or home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone, except to get medical care or other necessities.
4. Hand hygiene: Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
5. Respiratory Etiquette: Cover the nose and mouth with a tissue when sneezing. Throw the tissue in the trash after use.
6. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way.

**Action plan for a student who is sick with influenza-like illness:**

1. Students who develop an influenza-like illness and need to be excused from a clinical rotation or a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year educational activity must submit excusal requests *in advance* of the session/rotation start time, utilizing the required absence request processes as outlined in the Attendance section of the Medical Student Handbook, i.e. completion of DUCOMpass App “Urgent” Absence Request Form (except in setting of acute circumstances requiring *exam* excusal when students are expected to use the Student Affairs Emergency Textline at 215-991-8888).
  - a. When a pre-clerkship student requests an urgent absence through the DUCOMpass App, it is the student’s professional responsibility to inform, via email, the relevant group members, and faculty facilitator(s) of the absence prior to the start of the session. Students *are not obligated* to disclose the reason for the absence to these individuals.
  - b. When a clinical student requests an urgent absence, it is the student’s professional responsibility to inform, via email, the relevant clinical team resident(s) and attending physician of the absence. Students *are not obligated* to disclose the reason for the absence to these individuals.
2. Going to a patient-care rotation with symptoms of influenza-like illness is considered unprofessional – you are putting patients at risk.
3. In addition, you may want to seek assistance from your medical provider. If you have severe illness or are in a group at high risk for complications (pregnancy, immunosuppression, or chronic pulmonary, cardiovascular, hepatic, hematological, neurologic, neuromuscular, or metabolic disorders) you *should* contact your medical provider or seek medical care.
4. When to return to school: You should stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone.
5. Determine required make-up: See student handbook. Students are required to contact course, clerkship and site directors to determine how required coursework or missed time will be made up.

**If you have questions, call the Office of Documentation Surveillance at 215-991-8560 or after-hours on the Student Affairs Textline at 215-991-8888.**