

### **Health Related Policy (Vaccination Policy)**

Valley College does not have a college-wide vaccination policy. Some programs require that the students can show proof of vaccinations and immunizations. Those requirements are listed in the Additional Requirements section found in the Admissions Section of this catalog. Veterinary Technician students are at higher risk for exposure to Rabies and Tetanus. Therefore, all students enrolled in the Valley College Veterinary Technician program are strongly encouraged to be immunized against Rabies and Tetanus before they start the program.

Valley College recommends that all students in these programs carry personal health/medical insurance. If students in the Medical Clinical Assistant, Veterinary Assistant, Veterinary Technician, Practical Nursing, Commercial Driver License (CDL) Class A, programs require emergency treatment for illness or injury while carrying out their assignments, they will be responsible for payment for any emergency treatment rendered and all costs that may result from injury and/or illness. If the student's assigned clinic or externship/preceptorship site requires that the student carry personal health/medical insurance, the student is responsible for the cost of that insurance.

Other health related topics that are specific to programs are discussed in the Academics section of this Student Catalog. Students are advised to read the sections carefully.

### **COVID-19 Guidelines:**

COVID-19 has had a tremendous impact on the schools' ability to place students in the required clinical courses. Some clinical/externship sites have completely cancelled rotations while others have significantly reduced the number of students who can be at the clinical site at any one time. As expected, requirements around the COVID-19 vaccine continue to evolve amongst our clinical partners. Many facilities may require the COVID Vaccine for nursing students. At this time, we do not know for what or if any exemptions will be granted. Please keep in mind any exemptions/waivers may be facility dependent, and thus exceptions could vary between clinical partners. Valley's Practical Nursing, Nursing Associate, and Medical Clinical Assistant programs are obligated to abide by the requirements imposed by our clinical/externship partners. We cannot guarantee alternate clinical site placement for students who do not meet these requirements.

### **Medical Clinical Assistant program (MCA): Program Requirements/Recommendations (Beckley, Martinsburg, and Cleveland)**

All students in the MCA program are required to show proof of TB test (PPD skin test or chest x-ray). It is suggested that the student completes this test in Tier 1. The student must have the test and the results submitted to Valley College prior to the beginning of the Tier 3 classes. The test results with a negative reading must be received by the school prior to the start of the externship. The test date cannot expire prior to the end of the program's externship portion. If the test date expires before the student finishes the program, the student will be required to resubmit a new test result. Some sites may require proof of a 2-step PPD.

In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend the following vaccinations and immunizations. However, since many of our externship sites require these vaccinations/immunizations, Valley College **strongly suggests** that all MCA students provide a written copy of their current vaccinations and/or immunization records obtained from their physician (or health care provider). Failing to provide this documentation may limit the availability of externship sites that the student can be placed at.

- Proof of (a) one (1) Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Vaccination (MMR) or (b) a serum titer confirming immunity to each disease or (c) proof that the student was born prior to January 1, 1957.
  - Proof of (a) a second Measles Vaccination (may be a part of a second MMR or (b) a serum titer confirming immunity or (c) proof that the student was born prior to January 1, 1957.
  - Proof that the student has completed the Hepatitis B Vaccination series\* or (b) a serum titer confirming immunity.
- \*Hepatitis B is given in a three-part series. If the student hasn't completed the Hep B Vaccination series, the student be

able to provide proof that he/she has received the first dose of the vaccination prior to the start of their externship. Dose 2 is taken 1 month after the first dose. Dose 3 is taken six (6) months after the first dose.

- Proof of Varicella (Chicken Pox) immunity as shown by (a) physician documented history of the disease or (b) documentation of two immunizations or (c) a serum titer confirming immunity.
- Proof of Tetanus vaccination within the last 10 years.
- Proof of Influenza immunization (This may be a seasonal requirement).

### **Practical Nursing program (PN): Program Requirements/Recommendations (Cleveland and Fairlawn)**

The student is responsible for all necessary fees associated with the physical and any immunization and other health related requirements.

- TB (PPD): Two step Mantoux TB Test/Negative TB blood test. TB tests are good for one year. If a student's TB test results expire before he or she finishes the program, the student must repeat the test. If tests results are positive, a clear chest X-ray must be submitted.
- Proof of (a) a complete (3 injection series) Hepatitis B Vaccination/Booster or (b) a serum titer confirming immunity (positive antibody levels). Hepatitis B series: **Dose 1:** The student is strongly advised to start the series by the program's start date. The student is to show proof that he/she has initiated the series. **Dose 2:** The second injection is given one month after the first dose. **Dose 3:** The third injection is completed six months after the first **dose**. If negative antibody levels, student must show documentation of one revaccination (Booster) The student must sign a **waiver** acknowledging he/she may not be fully immunized if the Hepatitis B series is not complete.
- Proof of two (1) Measles, Mumps and Rubella Vaccination (MMR) or (b) a serum titer confirming immunity to each disease (and/or) Proof of boosters if no immunity is shown or (c) proof of one adult MMR revaccination.
- Proof of (a) a second Measles Vaccination (may be a part of a second MMR) or (b) a serum titer confirming immunity or (c) proof that the student was born prior to January 1, 1957, (and/or) Proof of boosters if no immunity is shown.
- Proof of Tetanus vaccination within the last 10 years.
- Proof of Varicella (Chicken Pox) immunity as shown by (a) physician documented history of the disease or (b) documentation of one immunization, (c) a serum titer confirming immunity and proof of Booster if there is no immunity shown; or one Varicella revaccination,
- Proof of Influenza immunization - This may be a seasonal requirement and is good for one year.
- Covid 19 Vaccination – Proof of vaccination or documentation or documentation of an exemption.

### **Nursing Associate Program Requirements/Recommendations (Beckley and Martinsburg)**

Nursing students must provide a copy of written documentation from a physician (or health care provider) concerning state vaccinations requirements. The list of the vaccinations follows:

- Proof of (a) a complete (3 injection series) Hepatitis B Vaccination **or** (b) a serum titer confirming immunity. Hepatitis B series is given in a three-part series. If the student does not have the complete HepB series, he/she must have proof of the first injection by the start of class and provide proof that the second injection is taken four weeks after the first. The third injection is completed 5 months after the second. If the student's HepB series is older than 10 years, the student will need to have a titer to confirm immunity. **AND**
- Proof of (a) one (1) Measles, Mumps and Rubella Vaccination (MMR) **or** (b) a serum titer confirming immunity to each disease **or** (c) proof that the student was born prior to January 1, 1957. **AND** Proof of (a) a second Measles Vaccination (may be a part of a second MMR) **or** (b) a serum titer confirming immunity **or** (c) proof that the student was born prior to January 1, 1957. **AND**
- Proof of 2-Step TB (PPD skin test or chest x-ray) with a negative reading.
- Proof of Tetanus vaccination within the last 10 years.
- Proof of Influenza immunization (This may be a seasonal requirement).