

Purpose: Immunization Policy

This policy reflects the institutions commitment towards ensuring the health and safety of all enrolled students as they may be at risk of exposure to infectious diseases, some of which are preventable by vaccination. Through it, SJBSM provides the guidelines for the immunization requirements in compliance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Puerto Rico Law of Immunizations (*Ley #25*) approved on September 25, 1983. This policy applies to all students enrolled at SJBSM.

Immunization Requirements:

Upon admission and before registration, all candidates are required to present the **PVAC-3** regardless of the age, indicating immunization following CDC requirements for healthcare providers (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/hcw.html#print>). International and Mainland students must present the evidence of immunization expedited in their country of origin to the Puerto Rico Department of Health to obtain the PVAC-3 form. The vaccine requirements are:

- **Hepatitis B** - series of three doses
- **MMR** (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) - two doses
- **TDAP** (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) – one dose and a booster every ten (10) years. In the event that a student did not receive a Tdap vaccine previously, they must get a one-time dose of Tdap as soon as possible and a Td or Tdap booster shot every 10 years thereafter
- **Polio** - at least 3 doses and one lifetime IPV booster
- **Varicella** (Chickenpox) – two doses.
- **Meningococcal** – one dose of MCV
- **Flu** (Influenza) – one dose annually
- **COVID** – SJBSM requires full vaccination as indicated by provider (ei. Pfizer – two dose / Moderna one dose / etc.) and a booster. Note: This may vary in the depending on future manifestations of COVID and CDC recommendations.

Exemptions

The Puerto Rico Department of Health (Article 5 of Law 25 of September 25, 1983, as amended, better known as the Immunization Law for Preschool Children and Students) allows exemptions to the immunization requirements due to religious or health reasons, including catastrophic diseases and pregnancy.

Students who decide not to undergo immunization due to religion, pregnancy or health reasons must (1) inform the admissions office prior enrollment, (2) complete the corresponding document explaining the motive of the exemption and, (3) submit notarized copy of document certifying the reason for declining immunization. In such circumstances, SJBSM will not be held responsible for the denial of access to clinical

sites, preceptorships, community practices, and/or other activities regulated by third parties.

Additional Clinical Requirements

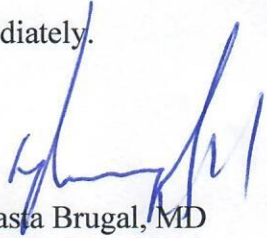
After admission and as a requirement for community, preceptorships and/or clinical activities, students enrolled in the MD, MPA and the BSN programs must present quantitative titers for Hep B, MMR and Varicella. In the event that students do not present serologic evidence of immunity in the corresponding titers, the student must comply with the CDC vaccine recommendations.

Sanctions

- Failure to comply with the immunization requirements upon admission may be ground for revoking acceptance to SJBSM
- Enrolled students who fail to comply with immunization and /or clinical requirements may result in the denial of access to clinical sites, preceptorships, community practices, and/or other activities regulated by third parties.
- Students in non-compliance may be referred for additional sanctions as described in the Student Handbook

Effectivity:

The dispositions contained in this Executive Order will be effective immediately.



Yocasta Brugal, MD
President/Dean

Approved July 21, 2006
Revised: September 24, 2021
November 4, 2022