TO: Incoming Class of 2020  
FROM: Julianne Stout, MD, Health Policy Coordinator  
DATE: Summer 2016  
RE: Freshman Vaccination Requirements

Congratulations on your acceptance to the College of Veterinary Medicine! We are excited that you will be joining us during your training phase for this wonderful career. At Purdue, your health and safety during this time are of utmost importance. For this reason, we have established a Student Health Policy that recommends vaccinations and testing important for your health as a veterinary student.

By the end of your first semester in the College of Veterinary Medicine, it is important that you have received the following:

1. A series of three rabies vaccinations. The series of vaccines takes a minimum of three weeks to complete. (These can be completed on-campus during the immunization clinic hosted once classes start. More information is noted below.)
2. A tetanus booster (within ten years of December 31, 2016). The Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) immunization is recommended once for adult. Once you have received this particular vaccine, subsequent boosters should consist of Td (tetanus and diphtheria) only.
3. Tuberculosis testing (within one year of December 31, 2016). Either a PPD skin test or an interferon gamma release assay blood test (such as Quantiferon Gold) is acceptable.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), it is important that all professionals who work extensively with animals (like veterinarians and veterinary students) be vaccinated for rabies. This requires that you receive a series of three pre-exposure vaccinations for rabies prior to extensive work in the clinics. You may be able to obtain these vaccinations through your family physician or health clinic in your hometown. I suggest that you take this letter to an appointment with your doctor and obtain the vaccinations and testing through your family doctor, if possible. Alternatively, you can wait to get the vaccinations and TB test after you arrive at Purdue in the fall.

The cost of this vaccination series previously has been about $912.00 and is covered by many insurance policies. If your insurance company denies your claim, PVM Student Services can provide letters of justification for insurance companies verifying that the rabies vaccination is a program requirement and a CDC recommendation. However, some insurance companies will only pay for the vaccinations if they are administered by an in-network provider. Please check with your insurance company regarding their coverage of these vaccinations. If your insurance company will cover only vaccinations given by your network provider, your cost will be lower if you arrange for the vaccinations this summer prior to the start of the Fall Semester. Since the three vaccines in the rabies series are given over a 3-4 week period, you will have to begin these vaccinations in July if you arrange them on your own.

Despite their cost, this vaccination series is an important investment in your personal and professional safety. If a person is exposed to rabies, but has not received the protective vaccination, the treatment may cost over $3500!

Some students may have difficulty getting the rabies vaccination in their home town, so PVM Student Services has made arrangements through the Purdue University Student Health Center to have you vaccinated (if needed) on site at the vet school in early September. Tetanus boosters and the TB test can also be obtained at the same event. Please be aware that the Purdue University Student Health Center is out of network for Anthem BCBS and most other major health insurance companies. Testing and immunizations received via the Purdue University Student Health Center may not be covered by your insurance, or may be covered at lower out-of-network rates with more cost to you. You can check the Purdue University Student Health website at www.purdue.edu/push or call them at 765-494-1700 for more information about health insurance coverage.
In order to participate in the vaccination program at the Purdue College of Veterinary Medicine through the Purdue University Student Health Center, you will need to bring with you a copy of the front and back of your insurance card along with the name and date of birth of the primary policy holder. We will be collecting this information at orientation.

In addition to the Purdue College of Veterinary Medicine-specific vaccination requirements, Purdue University requires proof of adequate immunization against or proof of immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella. The University also requires that you document the date of your last tetanus immunization. You will save time if you bring proof of the tetanus and MMR vaccines (or blood test results demonstrating immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella) to orientation.

We look forward to having you here at Purdue. If I can be of any assistance in answering your questions about rabies vaccinations or other health-related issues, please don’t hesitate to e-mail me at julstout@purdue.edu.

Sincerely,

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Purdue University