

Purpose: To promote the health and safety of PA College students.

Scope

Health & Wellness Services are available to all active students and include counseling, stress reduction, rejuvenation, and overall health and well-being resources. It is the goal of Health & Wellness Services to provide support and oversight to students in the service details included within this policy. More information about Health & Wellness Service can be found on the “Health & Wellness” portal page on the My PA College Portal.

Service Details

I. Influenza Vaccine

Any student who will access the College campus during any point in their education at PA College or participate in in-person College-related programs or activities, is required to receive an influenza vaccine during the yearly distribution. Students enrolled in the fall semester must complete this requirement by November 15th of each year (unless otherwise communicated) and new students beginning in the spring semester must complete this requirement before the start of classes. In-person College-related programs or activities include but are not limited to classes, capstone presentations, internships, integrating experiences, simulations, science or clinical skills labs, or use of any College amenities such as the computer labs or fitness center.

Vaccines are available annually through Health & Wellness Services at PA College, or students may obtain them through their local health care provider. Unless otherwise employed by Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health, students are not eligible to receive the influenza vaccine from Employee Health. Students who opt to receive their vaccine from outside of the Health & Wellness Services at PA College are responsible for submitting documentation of their vaccine to Health & Wellness Services (hwservices@PAcollege.edu).

Failure to comply with the annual influenza vaccine requirement may result in being withheld from classes and clinicals, course registration or further disciplinary action, ultimately resulting in dismissal.

II. COVID-19 Vaccine

Beginning with the Fall 2021 semester, any student who will access the College campus during any point in their education at PA College or participate in in-person college-related programs or activities is required to receive complete-dosage of the COVID-19 vaccine and be beyond the two-week inoculation window prior to the start of the semester. In-person College-related activities include but are not limited to classes, capstone presentations, internships, integrating experiences, simulations, science or clinical skills labs, or use of any College amenities such as the computer labs or fitness center. *Dual enrollment students are exempt from this requirement.*

Students are responsible for providing documentation of their completed vaccination to Health & Wellness Services (hwservices@PAcollege.edu).

Failure to comply with the COVID-19 vaccine requirement, if applicable, may result in being withheld from attending classes and clinicals or registering for courses, or further disciplinary action ultimately resulting in dismissal.

III. Vaccine Exemptions

Students may request an exemption from the above outlined immunization requirements on the basis of medical or religious grounds.

- a. For a medical exemption, a signed statement on letterhead indicating specific medical contraindication, signed by a Medical Doctor, Osteopath, Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant, shall be required.
- b. For an exemption based on religious beliefs, a signed statement on letterhead by a member of clergy verifying the religious exemption shall be required. If a student's beliefs do not include recognition of clergy, the student should submit a narrative explaining the basis of their religious exemption. Both statements from clergy and student narratives should briefly explain how the elements of the vaccine requirement conflict with a particular religious belief(s).

Exemption requests will be carefully evaluated and are not guaranteed. If granted, exemptions may be reevaluated as circumstances change. Students requesting an exemption for medical or religious reasons should understand that it may not be possible to accommodate them in their clinical experiences.

Students who receive an exemption from either of the above listed vaccines will be required to wear an appropriate face mask while on the PA College campus, unless otherwise advised by Health & Wellness Services. Additional information and/or requirements will be communicated by Health & Wellness Services.

Students wishing to request an exemption must contact Health & Wellness Services (hwservices@PAcollege.edu).

IV. CastleBranch and Clinical Student Requirements

Students enrolled in a clinically-based program may be required to provide vital documentation which includes an entry and annual physical with vaccination records. For more information on these requirements, please refer to *Policy 1.3 Clinical Student Requirements*.

V. Changes in Health Status

A satisfactory level of mental and physical health is important in order to support learning and assure student and patient safety. It is the student's responsibility to notify Health & Wellness Services, as well as their Program Director, of any significant changes in health status that might impact his or her ability to fully participate in class, laboratory or clinical, etc. The student should seek a consultation with their Program Director, Academic Advisor and/or Health & Wellness Services to determine the best pathway. The student may initiate a change in registration up to and including a Leave of Absence. Any student leaving for medical reasons will need to submit a letter from the student's Medical Doctor, Osteopath, Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant documenting the student's fitness to return to class and/or clinical.

VI. Counseling and Mental Health Support

Health & Wellness Services is pleased to offer a free and confidential student counseling program for all students to promote academic, personal and professional growth. It offers counseling and consultation for students regarding personal problems that may have an impact on academic performance. These areas may include: stress or anxiety, depression, marital or family problems, domestic violence or sexual assault, drug or alcohol misuse, grief and loss, eating disorders, and peer or faculty relationships.

Services can be initiated by the student in the Health & Wellness Suite or via Starfish. Sessions are available through a variety of formats such as Zoom, Facetime, phone calls, or in-person meetings when possible). If a student desires or needs extended care, the Campus Counselor will refer them to an appropriate community provider and/or resource.

For emergencies, students should call 911; otherwise, call Crisis Intervention of Lancaster 717-394-2631.

VII. Injuries and Exposures

COVID-19

All members of the PA College Community should refrain from visiting campus if they are sick or have symptoms of respiratory illness such as cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, as well as known COVID-19 symptoms of fever, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, muscle pain or body aches, headache, and/or chills.

In the case of suspected exposure to COVID-19, please contact your primary care provider immediately, self-isolate, and inform the COVID19@PAcollege.edu email.

In the case of a positive test for COVID-19 for a student, please inform the COVID19@PAcollege.edu. Students who test positive will be required to provide documentation to the College Nurse from a medical provider. The College Nurse will then alert the appropriate Dean. Should a student be required to quarantine, every effort will be made to accommodate the student's continued education through alternative assignments/arrangements. Upon receiving notice of a positive result, the College will coordinate communication to the student's clinical site, if applicable.

Information regarding required quarantining will be provided upon reporting of exposure or positive result.

On Campus (Non-COVID-19)

If an injury, exposure or other health incident occurs on the PA College campus, it is critical that students and employees follow the proper procedure. If the incident is an emergency, call 911. Otherwise, call the Office of Security at 717-735-1449. The Office of Security acts as the College's first response team and will provide basic support, manage the situation, and/or call 911 if necessary.

Any student who sustains an injury related to the academic or clinical environment must notify Health & Wellness Services as soon as they are able to do so.

Clinical Experiences

If an injury or exposure occurs during a clinical experience, it is critical that the student follow the proper procedure as outlined in this policy. The assigned clinical instructor must be notified immediately. The instructor will direct the student to Health & Wellness Services or the appropriate health care provider for treatment, if necessary. The instructor will have the student complete a *Student Injury/Illness Report*, accessible from the My PA College Portal under Student Life > Health & Wellness Services. This form must be forwarded to Health & Wellness Services if the student is not seen there.

Any student who sustains a needle stick injury or any other exposure to blood/bodily fluid during a clinical experience must follow the protocol of their clinical setting and notify Health & Wellness Services following the incident. For exposures that occur at Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health, students must also report to Employee Health during operating hours or to the Emergency Department at Lancaster General Hospital during off hours. Information regarding the source patient (name, DOB, medical record number, etc.) should be provided by the student to the evaluating facility. The initial costs of evaluating blood/bodily fluid exposures are usually covered by the facility in which the exposure occurred. If the student receives a bill for such services, it should be submitted first to their insurance company, and any remaining balance should be submitted to Health & Wellness Services. Expenses resulting from additional care and treatment relevant to the exposure will not be covered by the College or the respective clinical facility.

a. Financial Responsibility/Hospitalization

Services offered by Health & Wellness Services are provided at no charge to the student. All additional diagnostic tests, evaluations by outside physicians and hospitalization costs are the responsibility of the student and/or parents/guardians. Students are encouraged to maintain health insurance coverage. Information regarding student health insurance is available from Health & Wellness Services.

If a student must be admitted to the hospital, the Program Director and Health & Wellness Services must be notified by the Clinical Instructor as soon as possible. Parents, guardians and/or significant others may be notified with consent of the student. Students and/or parents assume financial responsibility for health care expenses.

b. Release of Health Records

Health records are released upon proper written and/or verbal request of the student to Health & Wellness Services.

Audience:	Students
Date Issued:	11/21/00
Date Approved by Faculty:	11/21/00

Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY STATEMENT

Issued: 11/21/00
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Policy 10.7.10

Student Health

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Owner:	Director, Campus Life & Student Engagement