MEMORANDUM

TO: Clinical Faculty, Staff and Students of IU Schools of Dentistry, Medicine, and Nursing

FROM: Stephen Winterneyer, M.D.
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DATE: May, 2011

SUBJECT: Updated Immunization and TB Surveillance Requirements
         (EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY)

One of the responsibilities of IUPUI Health Services (HS) (i.e. Student/Employee Health) is to insure that clinical faculty, staff and students meet appropriate, up-to-date, immunization and TB surveillance standards. The primary determinants of such standards are US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations and Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) requirements. IUPUI HS also keeps aware of requirements that trainees of our health care schools must meet when they perform clinical rotations in other health care facilities and when they attempt to obtain a license or privileges at another health facility.

Recently, the CDC and ISDH have made several changes in their recommendations/requirements regarding immunizations. These changes are the following:

1. Varicella (Chickenpox, shingles)
   The only acceptable documentation of immunity is one of the following:
   Physician diagnosis of varicella or herpes zoster
   Laboratory evidence of immunity (adequate titer)
   Documentation of 2 doses of varicella vaccine given ≥ 28 days apart
   Laboratory confirmation of disease

   The significance of this change is that self-report of varicella or herpes zoster disease is no longer considered evidence of immunity. The documented physician’s diagnosis of disease needs to be from the treating physician. The net result of this change is that many individuals will now need to have varicella blood titers drawn. IUPUI HS is aware of this inconvenience and additional cost and has taken steps to minimize both the inconvenience and cost.

(over)
2. Pertussis Vaccine
   Tdap is a vaccine for tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis. The CDC recommends that all health care workers receive Tdap as soon as possible, if they have not already done so. They should receive Tdap, regardless of how recently they may have received the Td vaccine. Many hospitals are now requiring that their staff receive Tdap as a condition of employment.

   Therefore, IUPUI HS is now requiring Tdap for individuals who have not already received it.

3. TB Surveillance
   The standard test for TB surveillance has been the TB skin test (TST). The TST is still acceptable. However, CDC recommends and ISDH requires that the test be read in the 48-72 hour window after it is placed.

   Therefore, IUPUI HS is now taking measures to insure that TSTs are read within the 48-72 hour window. Specifically, individuals who request their TST to be read prior to 48 hours will be advised that they need to come back to have it read. Individuals who request to have their TST read after 72 hours will be advised that they need to have another test placed.

   IUPUI HS apologizes for any inconvenience due to these changes in our procedures. However, these changes are being done to follow the most up-to-date CDC recommendations and ISDH requirements.

   Anyone who has questions about these requirements is welcome to contact Dr. Wintermeyer at swinterm@iupui.edu.