

**Berkshire Community College
 Massage Therapy Program
 Health and Immunization Policy**

Immunization Requirements: Students entering the BCC Massage Therapy program are required to follow the immunization policy set by MDPH for health students and by clinical sites. Students must submit proof of compliance with immunizations by:

Fall Massage Therapy Program	August 1 st
Spring Massage Therapy Program	December 1st

Please note: The Hep B series may take up to six months to complete. Students should plan accordingly. Immunization information may be shared with the Dean of Nursing, Program Advisor, Administrative Assistant, Immunization Office, and contracted agencies to allow for clinical experiences.

MANDATORY HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

(BCC Immunization policy developed according to Massachusetts Department of Public Health Immunization Program 2024-2025 School Year and per requirements of clinical sites)

Tdap	T-dap vaccination within 10 years (and every 10 years)
Hepatitis B	3 doses or positive titer that demonstrates immunity (if immunity is not seen, complete 3 series dose, or 2 series dose of Heplisav-B, or declination may be signed) *3-dose series takes up to 6-months to complete
MMR	2 doses or positive titer that demonstrates immunity (if immunity is not seen, complete 2 series dose of MMR)
Varicella	2 doses; a reliable history of chickenpox* or positive titer that demonstrates immunity (if immunity is not seen, complete 2 series dose of varicella vaccine) *A reliable history of chickenpox includes a diagnosis of chickenpox, or interpretation of parent/guardian description of chickenpox, by a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or designee.
Meningococcal	1 dose; 1 dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) required for all full-time students 21 years of age or younger. The dose of MenACWY vaccine must have been received on or after the student’s 16 th birthday. Doses received at younger ages do not count towards this requirement. Students may decline MenACWY vaccine after they have read and signed the MDPH Meningococcal Information and Waiver Form provided by their institution. Meningococcal B vaccine is not required and does not meet this requirement

Waiver/Declination

If a student is unable to receive an immunization due to medical and/or religious reasons, they must discuss a waiver with the Dean of Nursing, Health & Wellness and provide documentation of the need for a waiver. If a waiver is granted, then documentation must be filed in the Nursing Immunization and Medical Records Office. Both medical exemptions and declinations must be reviewed/renewed on the

appropriate forms annually. ***If a student cannot complete clinical due to immunization requirements, then they cannot complete the course.***

Verification of Student Health History and Physical Exam

In addition to the Mandatory Immunization Requirements, all students enrolled in health care programs are required to have the Verification of Student Health History and Physical Exam report completed by their health care provider indicating that they are able to perform the essential functions for the program. The signed Verification form must be current.

Cohort	Due by:	No sooner than:
Fall Massage Therapy	August 1 st	March 1 st
Spring Massage Therapy	December 1 st	July 1 st

Drug Screening, Substance Use and Impairment

The College and Massage Therapy Program do not initiate drug testing. In our commitment to the health and wellbeing of all clients, students, and faculty, we comply with all federal, state, and local laws that regulate or prohibit the possession, use, or distribution of alcohol, illicit drugs and/or prescription medications.

Massage therapy students are prohibited from engaging in the use or possession of legal substances which lead to impairment during practice or the use of illegal substances that can affect their judgment/performance. This is for the benefit of safety of our patients, faculty, and students

There may be circumstances in which students may need to take over-the-counter (OTC) or prescribed medications that may impair their judgment, performance, and/or behavior. Students are responsible for being aware of the effect these medications may have on their judgment, performance, and/or behavior. If it is likely that the student's clinical, lab, or classroom performance could be affected by OTC/prescribed medication, the student should initiate contact with the BCC Disability Office for consultation.

Substance use and impairment shall be defined as:

- 1) The use or possession of any drug in a manner prohibited by federal or state law; and
- 2) The use of alcohol or any illegal/legal drug or other substance in such a way that the user's judgement and/or performance is compromised.
- 3) The use or possession of any drug, alcohol, legal or illegal, on college property or associated site of college premises.

Failure to Comply

A student will not be allowed to participate in the clinical experience without all health requirements fully complete.

Submit requirements to the Nursing, Health and Wellness Medical Records Office located in the Hawthorne building, office #323, Berkshire Community College Main Campus.
Telephone: 413-236-4609; Fax: 800-724-9943; medicalrecords@berkshirecc.edu

Massage Therapy Program revised: 6/7/24