

## **Information about Required Rabies Immunizations** **Program of Veterinary Technology**

**Statement: All students enrolled in the Program of Veterinary Technology must be fully immunized with a pre-exposure rabies prophylactic vaccine series and tetanus toxoid and must carry health insurance during matriculation at Manor College.**

### **Why are rabies and tetanus immunizations, and health insurance required before matriculation?**

The Program's curriculum includes many laboratories in which students will be working directly with animals. Animals are unpredictable and can carry diseases that can be passed to humans. Though it is a rare disease, all mammals can carry rabies, particularly those with unknown immunization histories such as strays that come from shelters. The Program uses shelter animals in many of its courses. Therefore all students enrolled in the Program of Veterinary Technology must be immunized against Rabies (or be exempted by a physician). The pre-exposure rabies immunization series is a 2- or 3-shot series that is usually **NOT** covered by personal health insurance. The cost of the series is about \$850, but this can increase without notice. All students must receive the full series and should allow 8 weeks for its completion.

Students can be exposed to viral and bacterial infections from bite wounds and other contact with animals, therefore all students in the Program must be immunized against tetanus and must carry health insurance during the duration of their matriculation.

Students are responsible for their own health care costs including the rabies immunization series. Most health insurance policies do not cover pre-exposure rabies immunizations.

### **How do I prove that I have received the rabies and tetanus immunizations?**

Completion of the IHIR form is required as evidence that rabies and tetanus immunizations have been received. Students will not be permitted to take VT105 Large Animal Clinical and Emergency Procedures or any other course that requires hands-on training with animals until this form is completed and returned to the Veterinary Technology Office. Students should make a Xeroxed copy of the IHIR form when completed, for their own records.

### **Where can I go to get the immunizations?**

Pre-exposure rabies prophylactic immunizations can be administered by a family physician, or by a physician based at some drug store chains such as Walgreens. However, many physicians are not familiar with the vaccine and its administration. Therefore, we particularly recommend:

**Center for Occupational and Environmental Health  
Abington Memorial Hospital – Jefferson Health  
1200 Old York Road  
Price Medical Office Building, Suite 106  
Abington, PA 19001  
215-481-2233 or -5904**

Many Veterinary Technology students from Manor College have been immunized at Abington Memorial Hospital over the years, and the Center is therefore familiar with the needs of the VT student. The Center maintains the both pre-exposure rabies and tetanus vaccines in stock. For additional information and to schedule an appointment, call **(215) 481-2233**. Students should allow minimally 8 weeks for an appointment and completion of the rabies series. Tetanus boosters, if required, may also be given on one of the days when rabies is administered. Incurred costs are the responsibility of the student and are typically not part of a financial aid budget.

**What if I live far away from the College?**

Families that live far from Abington Memorial Hospital and the College may prefer to contact their family physician, or an Occupational and Environmental Health Department in a hospital near home.

**Returning a Signed Form:**

**Be sure to take the IHIR form with you to your appointments and have it signed each time you go.** When completed, xerox or photograph the form for your records and mail the original to:

**Charmaine Hofmann  
Program of Veterinary Technology,  
Manor College  
700 Fox Chase Road  
Jenkintown, PA 19046**