

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.

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

