



Message from the Medical Director:

### **Why is the UC system requiring immunizations and tuberculosis screening?**

Immunizations offer safe and effective protection from many infectious diseases. The United States is experiencing a re-emergence of some of these diseases, in part due to under-vaccination and increasing global travel. Many people have forgotten how bad it was before vaccines, and infectious diseases do not recognize state or international borders. Students spend a lot of time together in lecture halls, housing, dining halls, labs, and libraries and illnesses can spread easily within the campus community.

The American College Health Association (ACHA), the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the California Department of Health (CDPH) strongly support the use of vaccines to protect the health of our students and of other members of the campus community - some of whom may be at increased risk of dangerous complications (even if the illness is mild for others). In addition, tuberculosis (TB) is far more common than most people think, particularly in California and in the San Francisco Bay Area. Early diagnosis and treatment of infectious TB along with treatment of inactive TB are the best ways to reduce the chance that this potentially lethal disease will take you out of school or work for weeks or worse.

Don't worry. We are here to help you!

We know these requirements may be challenging to meet, whether it's because records sometimes disappear or because vaccines or other healthcare may not have been available to you in the past.

Please be reassured that we are here to help. Your admission to UC Berkeley is not at risk. You just need to do your best to comply and to reach out to us if needed.

We strongly recommend you start - and complete - this process as soon as possible. Once you arrive, you will want to focus on orientation, making new friends, and of course your academics. Also, delaying submitting your information ultimately can affect your ability to enroll in classes. However, if necessary, we can provide assistance with any outstanding vaccines and/or treatment once you are here, and we will always find a way to answer even the most complicated questions. Finally, we are here to support and partner with you to help you stay healthy and happy during your entire time at Cal, no matter your needs.

For more information, see:

[UCOP Immunization Policy](#)

[CDC Vaccine Information](#)

[Medical Care at University Health Services](#)

Welcome to UC Berkeley!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna Harte".

Anna Harte, M.D.  
Medical Director