

Volunteering at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt

Frequently Asked Questions

What immunizations are required to volunteer?

Volunteers at Monroe Carell are required to receive the following immunizations:

- MMR (if born in 1957 or later, you need two MMR vaccines after your first birthday given at least one month apart)
- TB Testing (either 2-step TB skin test within the last 12 months or blood assay for TB within the last 3 months)
- Varicella (either Varicella Titer or 2 doses of Varicella vaccine)
- Hepatitis B series strongly encouraged
- Tdap Vaccine
- Flu vaccine is required annually during flu season

What are the requirements to volunteer at Monroe Carell?

- A completed application and interview
- A cleared background check
- Online training modules at start of volunteering and annually during the course of your time as a volunteer
- Completion of required immunizations listed above
- Ability to make volunteer minimum time commitment

What is the required time commitment to volunteer?

- Once a week, same time each week
- Two to three hours per shift
- Minimum commitment of at least 48 volunteer hours (about six months)

“I will be in the area for a short time—can I volunteer while I'm visiting?”

Because our training process is very thorough, we are not able to offer short term volunteer opportunities. All new volunteers must be able to make the minimum commitment of 48 volunteer hours, 2-3 hours per week.

What are the age requirements to volunteer at Monroe Carell?

- Most of our programs require the volunteer to be at least 18 years of age. Some require the volunteer to be at least 21.
- We have a teen volunteer program, called STriVe, that takes place in the summer for three weeks during June & July. Teens who are age 16-18 can apply to STriVe. Outside of STriVe teens are welcome to support Monroe Carell through service projects and donations until they turn 18.

Considerations Before Applying

Are you ready to volunteer? Is VUMC/Monroe Carell the right place for you? Before you apply, ask yourself these questions:

- Have I carefully and realistically considered my schedule and determined that I am able to commit to a weekly volunteer time for at least 6 months?
- Am I comfortable in a clinical environment where I will see children who are sick or in pain and families under stress?
- Will I be able to treat my commitment to volunteering similarly to the seriousness with which I treat work or school obligations?
- Am I comfortable having a background check?
- Am I willing and able to maintain professional boundaries with patients and families?

➤ **Please note that volunteer placements at Vanderbilt University Medical Center are not medical learning, shadowing opportunities, or direct paths into employment at VUMC.**

Consider these statements and decide if they are true for you:

- I want to gain clinical experience by practicing the skills I have learned at school.
- I hope that by volunteering I will be better able to work through my grief at the loss of a loved one.
- I have a story to tell and want to share my experience with others.
- I have a month or two of unexpected free time and would like to volunteer on a short-term basis.
- I hope that volunteering will lead directly to employment at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.
- I need to be busy all the time.
- I have recently experienced the death of someone close to me. *
- I am currently looking for full-time employment. **

If any of these statements are true, please reconsider applying to Vanderbilt University Medical Center at this time.

*Please wait a year and apply then.

**Please wait until you are established in your new job and apply then.