

## IMMUNISATION REQUIREMENTS- STUDENTS UNDERTAKING CLINICAL PLACEMENT

### Immunisation

NSW Health is committed to a safe and healthy work environment. All staff and students working in public hospitals are required to get a series of vaccinations. You can read about NSW Health's policy on immunisation here: [https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDSDocuments/PD2018\\_009.pdf](https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDSDocuments/PD2018_009.pdf)

Please refer to the NSW Health's Frequently asked questions for further information:  
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/oasv-FAQ.aspx>

You can watch a video on Immunisation requirements here: <http://vimeo.com/113053151>

### Vaccinations required

1. Adult formulation diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine (dTpa)
2. Hepatitis B vaccine – 3 x doses & positive serology greater than >10.
3. Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine – 2 x doses one month apart or positive serology.
4. Varicella vaccine – 2 x doses one month apart or positive serology.
5. TB Screening (if required)

The required vaccinations are listed on the Vaccination Record Card (attached at the end).

### Documents accepted as proof of immunisation

- Original school or work immunisation program certificates
- Child immunisation book or record
- Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (free call 1800 653 809)
- Original immunisation documents stamped, signed and dated with batch numbers by the doctor or registered vaccine provider.
- Original records of serology tests.

**Documents must be in English.**

**Photocopies will not be accepted.**

### Where to get vaccinations done

You can get your vaccinations at any General Practitioner (GP) practice.

**It is strongly recommended that students take advantage of the GP at Macquarie University Hospital.** The GP clinic is located at the Clinic Building, 2 Technology Place, next to Macquarie University Hospital. **Make appointment at**, <https://www.mqhealth.org.au/hospital-clinics/general-practice>

GPs are sometimes unsure of immunisation requirements for people undertaking clinical placements in a health care setting. They may fail to give students the correct vaccinations. This can mean that students' clinical placements are delayed and students need to spend more money and time to get the correct injections.

The GP Clinic at Macquarie University Hospital is aware of the vaccinations required for clinical placements. They will also keep a record of all your vaccinations that students can access when required.

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### **Immunisation information for Students and GP's**

If you wish for your own GP or registered vaccine provider to perform the vaccinations and complete your vaccination card, then the following information may assist you and your doctor in ensuring that you have received the correct vaccinations. Please ensure these directions are followed to avoid the delay in the review of your immunisation status.

#### **Adult Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (Whooping Cough) dTpa**

**Student Instructions:** You must provide evidence of one injection of Adult Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (Whooping Cough) in the last 10 years. If over 10 years, you will require a booster.

**GP Instructions:** Do not give ADT; give Boostrix, Boostrix IPV, Adacel or Adacel Polio. You must also include the 'batch number', 'date of injection', 'providers name', 'signature' and 'practice stamp' in the column marked for this purpose. **Serology results for this immunisation are NOT ACCEPTED.**

#### **Hepatitis B**

**Student instructions:** When immunisation documentation is presented for review, you must have commenced the process of obtaining a course of three vaccinations (if you have already completed a course of Hepatitis B, you will simply only need to produce serology showing immunity recorded as a numerical value \*). Following the Hepatitis B course, you will be required to provide serology to show the level of immunity which you have obtained. You can obtain serology one month following the final dose of the Hepatitis B vaccine. If your result indicates 'low immunity' this being less than <10 you may be required to obtain a booster followed by further serology one month later to establish your immunisation status. This will be discussed between you and the NSW Health staff health nurse when your serology is reviewed.

**GP Instructions:** The following information must be recorded as evidence of a Hepatitis B course; 'batch number', 'date of injection', 'providers name', 'signature' and 'practice stamp' and following the completion of the course this includes 3 x Hepatitis B doses and a positive serology result >10.

*\*Serology must be recorded as a numerical value & not 'positive' or 'negative'. Students can complete this vaccination program within 6 months in their first year of study only.*

Refer to NSW Health Policy Directive 2018\_009 page 9 of 25 point 3.4. This provides advice on the time lines that this course can be administered.

#### **Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)**

**Student Instructions:** You must provide evidence of two doses of MMR or a positive serology result. If serology is negative or less than <30 you must have two vaccinations of MMR, one month apart. **You will be unable to commence a clinical placement until this has occurred.**

**GP Instructions:** Ensure that serology includes rubella titre in a 'numerical' value. Each vaccination must have the following information assigned; 'batch number', 'date of injection', 'providers name', 'signature' and 'practice stamp'.

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### Varicella (Chicken Pox)

**Student Information:** You must provide evidence of two vaccinations one month apart or evidence of positive Varicella serology. **You will be unable to commence a clinical placement until this has occurred.**

**GP instructions:** If students have been injected with Zostavax they do not require the second dose of varicella as it is 40 times stronger than varicella. Each vaccination must have the following information assigned; 'batch number', 'date of injection', 'providers name', 'signature' and 'practice stamp' or provide evidence of the student having positive Varicella serology.

### Tuberculosis Screening

**Student Information:** When attending a bulk compliance session, you must provide the completed Attachment 6 & Attachment 7 forms, TB screening and Student Undertaking Form.

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/tuberculosis/Documents/countries-incidence.pdf>)

If you have been in a high-risk country associated with a high incidence of TB (as defined by NSW Health based on information provided by the World Health Organisation:

You will be required to have an Interferon-Gamma Release Assays (IGRAs) Blood Test.

This can be done with your General Practitioner, please ensure that you make an appointment and inform that you require an IGRA (blood test).

### Common immunisation mistakes

- ADT given instead of dTpa.
- If MMR and Varicella are NOT given on the same day, then there must be a minimum of 28 days between the two vaccines.
- Blood tests must be either 'positive' or state the numerical value.
- Equivocal or borderline results are not acceptable.

### Annual influenza vaccination

As you will have noted Category A High Risk (description below) has been introduced with the Occupational Assessment, Screening and Vaccination Against Specified Infectious Diseases policy directive [PD2018\\_009](#). This category will be required to also provide evidence of annual influenza vaccination by 1 June each year.

Category A High Risk - High risk clinical areas

1. Antenatal, perinatal and post-natal areas including labour wards and recovery rooms and antenatal outreach programs
2. Neonatal intensive care units; special care units; any home visiting health service provided to neonates
3. Paediatric intensive care units
4. Transplant and oncology wards
5. Intensive care units CATEGORY

### NSW Ministry of Health Bulk Compliance Verification Days

Macquarie University will organise Bulk Compliance Verification Days where NSW Ministry of Health staff can check your documents and give you a classification status. When you attend a Bulk Compliance Day please ensure that you bring with you the following:

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- Your immunisation history, Vaccination Record Card
- Serology results
- A completed 'Attachment 6'
- A completed 'Attachment 7'
- A signed NSW Health Code of Conduct

Following review by staff health representatives, you will be provided with a classification status in which will determine if you can commence a clinical placement. The three classifications are:

1. **Non-Compliant** - this means that you have not provided the information as outlined below and are ineligible to attend a clinical placement in any NSW Health public health facility until you have completed mandatory immunisation requirements to gain at least temporary status.
2. **Temporary Compliance - Hep B/TB Contraindication** - this means that you have either not completed your Hepatitis B course of three injections or TB screening. Alternatively, you may require a TB screening IGRA as per the advice issued by the World Health Organisation. The staff health nurse reviewing your immunisation history will decide based on the information you provide. Do not forget to follow the instructions staff health provide you in relation to follow up. When classified as 'Temporary Hep B/TB Contraindication' in your ClinConnect file, the database will automatically provide you with six months to complete the process of outstanding immunisations, serology or TB screening. If you do not complete the process within this time frame, the database will automatically convert your file to 'Non-Compliant' and your faculty will be unable to allocate you to a clinical placement until you provide outstanding documentation. If a student is aware that they are Hep B antigen or core positive, only disclose this information to the staff health nurse reviewing your immunisation status. This will remain a confidential discussion. At completion of your Hepatitis B course you will be required to produce serology results recorded in numerical format. **This classification applies to students attending their first clinical placement and is provided once only in your first year of study - this classification cannot be extended.**
3. **Compliant** - this means that you have met all immunisation requirements. This status will remain current for the duration of your degree.

**Students who will be attending Clinical placements and Volunteer visits during their degree must be fully compliant in their first year of study.**

Students are to report any accidental potential exposure to blood or other body fluids when on placement to the facility and their facilitator/convenor as soon as possible after the event (an online ROAR report will be generated by the MQ staff member notified). The clinical placement facility will have a post potential exposure action plan that is to be adhered to.