

Immunisation Requirements for Placement

Why immunisation?

In order to progress to placement you must be screened and provide evidence of your immune status. Evidence of immunity to specific vaccine preventable diseases (VPD) is a mandatory requirement across all healthcare placement providers. Non-compliance with the *Addressing vaccine preventable disease: Occupational assessment, screening, and vaccination 2022* may prevent you from progressing to placement.

What are the immunisation requirements?

The following checklist provides details of the immunisation requirements for Health Care Workers (HCW) as per the [Addressing vaccine preventable disease: Occupational assessment, screening, and vaccination 2022](#).

Why the Certificate of Compliance?

The Certificate of Compliance has been developed in conjunction with the *Addressing vaccine preventable disease: Occupational assessment, screening, and vaccination 2022* and serves to ensure a consistent approach to addressing the mandatory immunisation requirements for Student Health Care Workers on placement.

How often will I need to complete the Immunisation Compliance Form?

You are required to complete the Immunisation Compliance Form once in your program to satisfy the requirements of the *Addressing vaccine preventable disease: Occupational assessment, screening, and vaccination 2022*. It remains your responsibility to keep a hard copy of the Immunisation Compliance Form and copies of vaccination records and serology results ready to provide placement sites at the commencement of placement. When attending clinical placement, you may be required to produce your vaccination records and serology results when commencing placement, as well as evidence of yearly Influenza vaccination and Covid-19 vaccinations (if required). You may need to liaise with your medical practitioner on more than one occasion in order to complete the requirements of the Immunisation Compliance Form.

How do I satisfy the Immunisation requirements?

The University requires proof of your immune status through the completion of the attached Immunisation Compliance Form. You will be required to:

- Complete the Health Care Worker Immunisation Screening Questionnaire;
- Provide evidence from medical records of immunisation and/or serology results;
- Attend a Medical Practitioner or authorised immunisation nurse to complete the Immunisation Compliance Form (pages 1 & 2). You may attend any of the following:
 - UniSA Health Medical Clinic Phone 1300 172 996 or <http://www.unisamedical.com.au/>
 - Private medical practitioner
 - Other local immunisation services;
- Students complete the student declaration of compliance (page 2);
- **Scan your completed and signed Immunisation Compliance Form (pages 1 & 2) as one file and upload to InPlace;**
- Print a hard copy of your Immunisation Compliance Form, serology reports and other relevant documents ready to provide to placement site upon request.

What is serology?

A serology test is a blood test that measures the blood serum for antibodies associated with an infection. A serology test usually involves taking a small amount of blood that is tested by a pathology laboratory. A serology test will reveal if you have achieved an acceptable level of immunity to some, but not all specific vaccine preventable diseases. It is important to note that not everyone responds to vaccinations in the same way; some people may require additional doses of vaccine in order to achieve immunity and occasionally a person may not develop enough antibodies for immunity (non-seroconverter).

What if I have a confirmed Blood Borne Virus (BBV), cannot sero-convert, or wish to refuse vaccination?

If you are unable to complete the Immunisation Compliance Form for any of the above reasons, please complete the relevant declaration on page 9 of this package with your medical practitioner or authorised immunisation nurse. Post completion of the declaration please contact your relevant Program Director and / or Course Coordinator to discuss your immunisation status. Your Program Director or Course Coordinator will be able to discuss your placement needs further and develop a plan for progression.

If you choose to refuse screening and/or vaccination you should be aware you will not be able to progress to placement due to being excluded from participating in Category A and B care activities (as per section Mandatory Instruction 1, section 2, of the Addressing vaccine preventable disease: Occupational assessment, screening, and vaccination 2022). In this case you will need to make an appointment with your relevant Program Director to discuss alternative program pathways.

Yearly influenza vaccine requirements

Yearly influenza vaccination has been shown to protect high-risk patients, reduce influenza rates in staff and patients, and reduce sick leave during the influenza season. It is a duty of care and requirement for placement that you receive the yearly influenza vaccination in order to reduce the likelihood of transmitting influenza, particularly to those in your care. You will need to provide evidence of yearly influenza vaccination once the vaccination becomes available each year.

Tuberculosis requirements

You must complete the online Tuberculosis screening questionnaire which you can access via extapps2.sahealth.sa.gov.au/TBQuestionnaire.

If you are assessed as low risk you will need to complete the student declaration on page 2 of Immunisation Compliance Form.

If you are assessed as high risk you will be contacted by SA Health and be required to attend an appointment with SA Health Tuberculosis Services.

Students who have completed the online TB screening form and who are advised that further TB screening is required should note that this cannot be done if a live vaccine (for example measles, mumps, rubella or varicella [chickenpox]) has been given in the preceding 4 weeks

Once you have been given clearance please complete the student declaration on page 2 of the Immunisation Compliance Form and keep a copy to present to your placement site on your first day.

Student Health Care Worker Immunisation Screening Questionnaire and Certificate of Compliance

Instructions: Please complete and bring this form to your doctor, together with the original or valid copies of your existing vaccination records and relevant blood test results.

1. CHICKENPOX (VARICELLA-ZOSTER VIRUS)

Do you have evidence of age-appropriate vaccination (documentation IS REQUIRED)? OR do you have a blood test showing immunity to chickenpox (documentation IS REQUIRED)?

YES You are considered immune to chickenpox and do not need to take further action ... **GO TO 2.**

NO or **DON'T KNOW**

- You need to have a blood test to see if you are immune to chickenpox.
- If the result shows you are immune, you do not need to take further action.
- If the result shows you are not immune, you need to have 2 doses of varicella vaccine given at least 4 weeks apart. You do NOT need to have a blood test following this vaccination.

2. DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS and PERTUSSIS

Have you had a primary course (3 doses) of a diphtheria/ tetanus/ pertussis toxoid-containing vaccine (usually given in childhood) AND had a booster dose of a diphtheria/ tetanus/ pertussis toxoid-containing vaccine (e.g. dTpa) in the last 10 years? Documentation NOT REQUIRED for the primary course but IS REQUIRED for the booster dose.

YES You are considered immune to diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis. Please show your doctor documentation of your most recent booster dose ... **GO TO 3.**

NO or **DON'T KNOW**

- If you have not had a primary course of these vaccines, you need to see your doctor.
- If you have had a primary course but no booster in the last 10 years, you need to have a booster diphtheria/ tetanus/ pertussis-containing vaccine (e.g. dTpa vaccine).
- You do NOT need to have a blood test following this vaccination.

3. HEPATITIS B

Have you completed a full course of HBV vaccine (either 3 doses, or 2 doses if given between 11 to 15 years of age) AND had a blood test result showing immunity (hepatitis B surface antibody [anti-HBs] $\geq 10\text{mIU/mL}$)? Documentation of blood test result IS REQUIRED.

OR

Have you had resolved HBV infection in the past AND had a blood test to confirm you are immune (hepatitis B core antibody)? Documentation of blood test result IS REQUIRED.

YES You are considered immune to hepatitis B. Please show your doctor the blood test result confirming immunity ... **GO TO 4.**

NO or **DON'T KNOW**

- You need to have blood tests to assess your immune status.
- If the blood tests show that you are immune to hepatitis B, you do not need to take further action.
- If the blood tests show that you are not immune to hepatitis B, you need to have 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine at 0, 1 and 6 months, followed by a blood test 4 weeks after the last vaccine to check for immunity.

- If you have had a full vaccine course but no blood test, you should see your immunisation provider for a hepatitis B booster vaccine and blood test 4 weeks later.
- If the blood test shows, you are Hepatitis B surface antigen positive you should seek confidential medical and career advice from a medical specialist.

4. MEASLES, MUMPS and RUBELLA

Were you born before 1966?

- YES** You are considered immune to measles, mumps and rubella ... **GO TO 5.**
- NO** ... **GO TO NEXT QUESTION**

Do you have evidence of vaccination with at least 2 doses of a measles-containing vaccine (e.g. measles-mumps-rubella [MMR] vaccine)? Documentation IS REQUIRED.

- YES** You are considered immune to measles, mumps, and rubella. Please show your doctor the documentation to verify your immune status ...**GO TO 5.**
- NO** ... **GO TO NEXT QUESTION**

Do you have evidence of immunity to measles, mumps AND rubella infections (laboratory evidence of past infection or laboratory evidence of immunity)? Documentation IS REQUIRED.

- YES** You are considered immune to measles, mumps, and rubella. Please show your doctor the documentation to verify your immune status ...**GO TO 5**
- NO or DON'T KNOW**
- You need to complete a 2-dose course of MMR vaccine, except in certain circumstances, such as pregnancy. If you are pregnant or planning to get pregnant, you should not have the vaccine and discuss this with your doctor.
 - You do NOT need to have a blood test following vaccination.
 - If you are confident you have had 2 doses of MMR vaccine but do not have the documentation, you will be required to have a blood test to check for immunity.

5. POLIOMYELITIS

Have you received a full 3-dose course of polio vaccination (orally or by injection) as a child? Documentation NOT REQUIRED.

- YES** You do not need to take further action unless you are planning to travel to a country where polio is present, or you are a healthcare worker, including laboratory worker, in possible contact with poliomyelitis cases or poliomyelitis virus, (a booster dose of polio vaccine is then recommended). Please discuss with your doctor ...**GO TO 6.**
- NO or DON'T KNOW**
- You need to complete a 3 dose course of inactivate poliomyelitis vaccine (IPV)
 - You do NOT need to have a blood test following this vaccination

6. HEPATITIS A

Are you undertaking, or likely to be undertaking clinical placement, in remote Indigenous community or with Indigenous children?

- YES** Hepatitis A vaccination is recommended (if you are not already immune)
... **GO TO NEXT QUESTION**
- NO or DON'T KNOW**
Discuss Hepatitis A vaccine with your doctor ...**GO TO 7**

Have you received 2 doses of hepatitis A vaccine, at least 6 months apart?

- YES** You are considered immune. Please show your doctor your vaccination records.
- NO** or **DON'T KNOW**
- You should have 2 doses of hepatitis A vaccine, at least 6 months apart
 - You do NOT need to have a blood test following this vaccination.

7. BLOOD BORNE VIRUS INFECTIONS (EXCLUDING HEPATITIS B)

As a Health Care Worker, you have a responsibility to know your status in relation to hepatitis C virus (HCV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). This is done by having a blood test for HCV antibody and HIV antibody. **You do not need to inform SA Health of your status in relation to HCV and HIV.**

HEPATITIS C VIRUS

Do you know your status in relation to HCV?

NO or **DON'T KNOW**

You must know your HCV status.

YES

- If you are HCV antibody negative, you do not need to take further action.
- If you are HCV antibody positive, you must seek confidential medical and career advice from an infectious diseases specialist and not undertake any exposure prone procedures until cleared to do so by the specialist.

HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV)

Do you know your status in relation to HIV?

NO or **DON'T KNOW**

You need to know your HIV status but you do not need to inform SA Health of the result.

YES

- If you are HIV antibody negative, you do not need to take further action.
- If you are HIV antibody positive, you must seek confidential medical and career advice from an infectious diseases specialist and not undertake any exposure prone procedures until cleared to do so by the specialist.

8. TUBERCULOSIS

You **must** complete the online Tuberculosis screening questionnaire (extapps2.sahealth.sa.gov.au/TBQuestionnaire) and be given clearance from SA Tuberculosis Service prior to clinical placement in any SA Health facility.

NOTE

If you are considering working or taking an elective placement in developing country contexts, you are strongly advised to seek advice from a doctor experienced in travel medicine so that appropriate additional vaccinations and other preventive measures can be discussed.

Acceptable evidence of immunity to specific VPDs for Health Care Workers

VPD	Acceptable evidence of immunity
Chickenpox (Varicella-Zoster)	Documented evidence of varicella antibody (IgG) on serology or documented evidence of age appropriate vaccination. Confirmation of immunity post-vaccination is not required.
Diphtheria	Documented evidence of a booster dose of diphtheria-containing vaccine in the last 10 years. Confirmation of immunity post-vaccination not required.
*Hepatitis A	Documented evidence of hepatitis A antibody on serology (IgG) or documented evidence of completed course of hepatitis A vaccine. Confirmation of immunity post-vaccination not required.
Hepatitis B	Documented evidence of Hepatitis B core antibody or documented level of hepatitis B surface antibody (>10mIU/ml) following completion of a course of hepatitis B vaccine. Confirmation of immunity post-vaccination is required after completion of the vaccination course for all HCW.
Measles	Documented evidence of measles antibody (IgG) on serology or documented evidence of 2 measles vaccinations at least one month apart or born before 1966. Confirmation of immunity post-vaccination is not required.
Mumps	Documented evidence of mumps antibody (IgG) on serology or documented evidence of 2 mumps vaccinations at least one month apart or born before 1966. Confirmation of immunity post-vaccination is not required.
Pertussis	Documented evidence of pertussis booster vaccination in the previous 10 years. Confirmation of immunity post-vaccination not required.
Poliomyelitis	History of vaccination with a primary course of 3 vaccinations (documentation is not required). Confirmation of immunity post-vaccination not required.
Rubella	Documented evidence of rubella antibody (IgG) on serology or documented evidence of 2 rubella vaccinations at least one month apart or born before 1966. Confirmation of immunity post-vaccination is not required.
Tetanus	Documented evidence of a booster dose of vaccine containing tetanus in the last 10 years. Confirmation of immunity post-vaccination not required.
Tuberculosis (TB)	Student Health Care Workers must complete the online Tuberculosis screening questionnaire (http://www.pages.on.net/questionnaire.php) and be given clearance from SA Tuberculosis Service prior to clinical placement in any SA Health facility.

***Hepatitis A:** Screening and vaccination **recommended** for HCWs working in remote Indigenous communities or with Indigenous children and for carers of people with developmental disabilities.

For a list of endemic countries (intermediate and high risk), please see:

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2010/chapter-2/hepatitis-b.aspx>