

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

STAFF & STUDENTS IMMUNISATION PROCEDURE

1. METHOD OF WRITING POLICY

Information was obtained from C/R file 390-1-25, "Students working in hospitals - health requirements". Comments from Dr John Wolstenholme, Senior Health Officer, Victoria Health Department were received on 23.2.92 and incorporated into the Policy. The Policy was discussed by the Biological Safety Sub-Committee meetings on 30.10.91 and 11 March. Advice was taken from the Director, University Health Service. The Policy was discussed at Occupational Health and Safety Committee meetings on 7.11.91, 10.2.92, and 13.4.92. The revision of Section 4.2.1(b) was approved by Occupational Health and Safety Committee on 21 June 1993.

2. PREAMBLE

The University Safety Policy states that "the University recognises its obligation to take all reasonable precautions to protect the safety of its employees, students and visitors while they are on the premises". This involves immunisation against diseases to which persons may be exposed.

Staff and students may be advised to have immunisation but cannot be directed to have immunisation. However the University has the right to preclude persons who are not immunised from certain activities, in consideration of the University's duty of care for staff and students.

3. AUTHORITY

This policy was discussed by Occupational Health and Safety Committee at its meeting on 7.11.91, and conditionally approved at the 10.2.92 meeting (minute reference 25.5.5). Biological Safety Sub-Committee of 11 March confirmed that these conditions had been met (minute reference 4.3.3). Final approval was given by Occupational Health and Safety Committee meeting of 13 April 1992 (Minute 26.5.5) and 21 June 1993 (Minute 33.5.6) refer.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Cost

Where the University recommends that immunisation is necessary, the cost of immunisation of staff shall be met by the Department; the cost of immunisation of under-graduate, honours and post-graduate students shall be at the discretion of the Chairperson.

4.2 Recommended immunisations:

4.2.1 For persons who handle animals:

- (a) Hepatitis B (necessary only where the person may handle tissues of human origin as well; humans are the only known reservoir for the virus although chimpanzees and certain other primates can be infected experimentally);

- tetanus;
- tuberculosis;

- (b) Q fever is caused by a micro-organism called *Coxiella Burnetii*. A Variety of animals, both domestic and wild, may be infected, but remain well. These include kangaroos, dogs, cats, cattle, sheep, wallabies, goats and bandicoots. Of these animals, cattle, sheep and goats are often the most significant source for human infection.

Where staff or students have contact with the tissue, body fluids, or bedding etc of the above animals, the Senior Laboratory Officer shall assess the risk for operations under their control, in consultation with the University Health Service, and ensure that appropriate immunisations or preventive measures are carried out. (The risk from a single class dissection of animal tissue is not considered to warrant immunisation.)

- 4.2.2 For persons at risk from body fluids such as students and staff, laboratory workers, first aiders, and persons in contact with used "fits" or other sharps (such as cleaning staff, plumbers and landscaping staff):

- hepatitis B;
- tetanus.

- 4.2.3 Undergraduates undertaking clinical experience in a hospital or health care setting and staff who are in contact with patients or children in a health care or child care setting:

The Health Department recommends the combined Measles/ Mumps/Rubella vaccine for both male and female students, as there is always danger of a male student contracting Rubella and then coming into contact with a susceptible pregnant woman.

- Hepatitis B;
- Tuberculin testing, and action as prescribed in the Course Handbook (copy attached);
- Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria and Tetanus

- 4.2.4 Food handlers (catering staff):

- Tetanus
- Tuberculin testing.

- 4.2.5 Persons travelling overseas on University business should consult a University Health Service doctor or their own private doctor for advice on immunisation.

- 4.2.6 Persons handling soils:

- Tetanus

- 4.2.7 All students

Although persons listed in Section 4.2.3 are at more risk than the rest of the campus population, all students are advised to be immunised with the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine.

- 4.2.7 Further information.

For further information about immunisation, staff and students may contact their University Health Service or local doctor.

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY COURSE HANDBOOK 1991**LINCOLN SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES SECTION - PAGE 141****Recommended health procedures**

It is suggested that students undergo a regular physical examination with a view to preventing or detecting disease. To further reduce health risks, the following recommendations are made:

1. All students are strongly advised to comply with the recommendations of the Department of Health, Tuberculosis Branch, as follows:
 - (a) Tuberculin testing prior to attending hospital clinics;
 - (b) If the tuberculin test is naturally positive (that is positive with no previous BCG), this indicates previous infection with TB. In this case:
 - (i) For a positive reaction of less than 10mm a chest X-ray is recommended and if normal, no further action;
 - (ii) For a positive reaction of 10mm or over, a chest X-ray or referral to a chest clinic.
 - (c) If the tuberculin test is positive and previous BCG vaccination has been given, a chest X-ray is recommended for a reaction of 10mm or over;
 - (d) If the tuberculin test is negative, a BCG vaccination is recommended. The tuberculin test should be repeated after six weeks, if it is still negative, a repeat vaccination is recommended;
 - (e) The individual may have a routine chest X-ray for TB. The decision to have such an X-ray is at the discretion of the individual.
2. It is recommended that all students are immunised against Hepatitis B.
3. It is recommended that all female students be immunised against rubella.
4. It is recommended that all students be up to date in their immunisation against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, and tetanus. Please check that these were given at the time of leaving secondary school.
5. It is recommended that all students ensure that they are immunised against measles.