

Immunisation & Health Record Form FAQs

Office of the Provost, Partnership Operations

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Disclaimer: the information provided in this document is summarised information from The Australian Immunisation Handbook. It is not intended to be, nor should it be interpreted as medical advice. All students should consult a qualified health care practitioner before taking any action to address immunisation and health record requirements.

General questions

Q: When should I commence my immunisations?

A: All immunisation requirements are expected to be completed prior to the deadline set by Placement Operations, Compliance Team. These dates are set to ensure students are confirmed for placement within a reasonable timeframe. It is recommended students commence the immunisation process as soon as they have received their Letter of Offer and/or the immunisation information via email from the Compliance Team as some immunisation courses require up to 7 months to complete.

Q: Where can I have my vaccinations?

A: Vaccinations can be conducted by the La Trobe University Medical Centre, located on the corner of Plenty Road and Kingsbury Drive, Bundoora or with the student's preferred medical practitioner. Immunisation and Health Record forms must be completed, signed and dated by a medical practitioner or immunisation nurse.

Q: What if I do not wish to have vaccinations?

A: Students have the option to opt out of providing evidence of their immunisation history. Please be aware that non-participation in the immunisation requirements may increase a student's risk of contracting disease through exposure to infected patients/clients in the clinical setting and could also lead to the refusal of a health facility to accept a student for placement and thus may prevent a student from meeting the required components of their degree program.

Conscientious objectors are advised to reconsider a career in the healthcare industry prior to accepting an offer of admission. Vaccinations are required for all staff/students working in clinical settings as they are at risk of transferring infectious diseases to patients and clients in healthcare settings.

Q: What if I am unable to have vaccinations finalised before the due date?

A: Placements are a core requirement of the course. Students who fail to have their vaccinations may be withdrawn from their placement. Withdrawal after the census date will incur academic and financial penalties and would delay a student's progression in their course of study.

Students are expected to upload their immunisation and health records by the due date. For those students who do not have sufficient time to complete all immunisations prior to the deadline due to the time required for the recommended schedule to be followed, the Placements Team may be able to make arrangements for the student to attend placement by exception. Exceptions are managed on a case-by-case basis and are dependent on individual facility policies.

Q: Do I need to update the Immunisation and Health Record Form every time I receive a new vaccination?

A: The Immunisation and Health Record form only needs to be uploaded once. Any updates to the form after the date that it has been signed by the medical practitioner cannot be accepted. Students are then required to upload the evidence of any missing documents, further doses or updated serology as they have them done, to InPlace (Immunisation Supporting Evidence section), e.g. a copy of a medical practitioner's immunisation record, Medicare Immunisation Statement, print-out proof of a flu shot, an updated serology report).

Students are not required to update/upload the Immunisation and Health Record form each time they receive an updated booster or serology. Please only upload the actual evidence. Duplicate pages will need to be merged as a single file. Once evidence is uploaded, please notify the Compliance Team by the Work Based Learning Placements Student Enquiry form so we may check and update your records. Students with incomplete Immunisation and Health Record forms who haven't supplied the extra evidence for missing documents will be emailed by a member of the Compliance Team.

Q: I have uploaded the Immunisation and Health Record Form that the medical practitioner has fully completed. Why do I need to upload serology evidence and vaccination records?

A: The Immunisation and Health Record form is only part of what is required. Students need to upload copies of their vaccination records (either baby books, council records or medical practitioner vaccination history reports) and serology tests as well. The Immunisation and Health Record form is completed by a medical practitioner or immunisation nurse so that the Placements Team can ensure an appropriately qualified person has checked each of the requirements to verify that students have met the required immunisation and immunity status. The evidence (e.g. vaccine records and serology tests) is needed to provide to placement providers upon request, and to ensure students can prove their immunisation and immunity status. A placement provider may request the University or students to provide evidence of the full vaccination records and serology records. For example, if there is an outbreak of Measles at a facility the placement provider may request the University to provide proof that a student at that facility have been vaccinated for Measles. We then need to provide this evidence by way of vaccination records and/or serology confirming immunity.

Q: What if I have allergies or become unwell. Should I still have my vaccinations?

A: Students should discuss specific circumstances with their medical practitioner or immunisation nurse. Written confirmation outlining their individual circumstances will need to be provided to the discipline

specific Placement Officer who will then liaise with academic staff and placement providers to establish any restrictions or additional risks for completing clinical placements.

Q: What if I am pregnant. Will I be able to have vaccinations?

A: Students should seek advice from their medical practitioner or immunisation nurse. Written confirmation outlining their individual circumstances will need to be provided to the discipline specific Placement Officer who will then liaise with academic staff and placement providers to establish any restrictions or additional risks for completing clinical placements.

Q: What happens if I can't find proof of my baby books and childhood vaccination records? Will serology be sufficient?

A: For the majority of placement providers serology will be sufficient. However, there are some placement providers that require proof of the student's childhood and adolescent vaccination details before they are permitted on placement. A placement provider may refuse to allow the student on placement until such time as they can provide this documentation. If the student cannot provide this information it will limit the placement providers to which they can be placed.

Q: I am an international student and would like to commence immunisations in my home country. What documents will I be required to present once I enrol?

A: Students who commence immunisations in their own country will still need to complete the Immunisation and Health Record form on arrival in Australia. Students should ensure they have vaccination and serology documentation including official translations to English prior to leaving their home country. When students arrive in Australia, they will need to present all documents and translations, including serology reports, to a medical practitioner or immunisation nurse who will sign off the forms confirming their documents comply with immunisation requirements.

Q: Do you accept a Statutory Declaration for any immunisations?

A: No – a statutory declaration is not considered acceptable if students are unable to provide evidence of their immunisation history.

Section 1: Hepatitis B (HBV)

Q: I have serology for Hepatitis B confirming immunity. Why do I need to provide evidence of the doses as well?

A: The immunisations required are as per the Department of Health Australian Immunisation Handbook, which states that evidence of a documented course of Hepatitis B immunisation plus serology to confirm immunity is required. If students cannot provide this information it will limit the placement providers with which they can be placed.

Q: I have serology for Hepatitis B confirming immunity, but it was from 5 years ago. Is this acceptable?

A: Yes, the University has no time limit on serology results for Hepatitis B. However, some facilities may request updated serology if there are time limits dictated in their Immunisation Policy.

Q: I have only received the first two doses of adult Hepatitis B vaccinations. Should I have serology done?

A: If students are completing an adult course of Hepatitis B Vaccinations, serology should not be done after 2 doses. If the third dose is not scheduled until after the placement is due to commence the discipline specific Placement Officer will contact the placement provider to find out if the student can still attend placement at the venue. Serology following the second dose may be required at the request of the placement provider.

Students that can attend the first placement with only two doses will still need to complete the full course of vaccinations for Hepatitis B and serology as soon as possible.

If students have received 2 doses of an adolescent course of Hepatitis B vaccinations, yes serology should be performed as the course is considered complete after 2 doses.

Q: I have two doses of paediatric Hepatitis B vaccinations plus a booster and my serology is sufficient. Is this adequate?

A: Yes – students who have three doses in total and have sufficient immunity to Hepatitis B have satisfied the requirements for Hepatitis B.

Q: I have had all three adult doses of Hepatitis B and my serology was <10 mIU/mL – then my medical practitioner gave me a booster (single 4th dose). Do I need to have further serology done?

A: Yes – if the original serology shows insufficient immunity, we require a new serology after the booster (4 weeks after the booster dose) to confirm the immunity levels are now sufficient. If the anti-HBs level remains <10 mIU/mL the possibility of HBV infection should be investigated and, if excluded, the student should be managed as a non-responder to vaccination.

Students who do not respond to the primary vaccination course, and in whom chronic HBV infection has been excluded, should be offered further doses. Further information is available in the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#).

Q: What if my results come back positive for Hepatitis B?

A: Students must seek expert advice from a medical practitioner regarding further management of their status immediately. Students will need to provide written evidence from their medical practitioner or immunisation nurse confirming their Hepatitis B status. This will need to be declared to the placement provider by the discipline specific Placement Officer who will then provide further advice on the clinical placement implications and associated risks.

Q: I have received 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccines, but the brand names are different. Is this sufficient?

A: According to the Australian Immunisation Handbook this does not meet the standard immunisation schedule for Hepatitis B, however the University will accept an explanatory letter from a GP/Immunisation Nurse that confirms the completion of a full immunisation schedule.

Q: Can I complete an accelerated course of Hepatitis B vaccinations?

A: An accelerated course for Hepatitis B is not recommended. The standard schedule for an accelerated course includes a booster vaccination 12 months after you have received the 3rd dose, and we are unable to consider the course complete until you have provided evidence of this and subsequent serology, meaning it will actually take an additional 5 months for you to be deemed compliant.

Section 2: Varicella

Q: I have never had Chickenpox or shingles. Will I need to have this vaccination?

A: Students with a negative clinical history of varicella and negative varicella serology will need to be immunised. That is, two vaccinations one month apart. Students must keep their vaccination records or serology results as some placement providers may ask for verification of the student's vaccination status.

Q: I have provided a date for clinical chickenpox or shingles but have no evidence. Is this sufficient?

A: No – students are required to submit either serology indicated immunity to varicella or details of a completed course of varicella vaccinations – 2 doses 4 weeks apart.

Q: I have evidence of one dose of varicella and serology. Do I need a second dose?

A: Yes – at the time of implementation of a universal varicella vaccination program in Australia, a single dose was considered adequate for protection. However, the recommendation has recently been updated to include a second dose to provide an optimal immune response. Students who received a single dose in childhood or adolescence are required to complete the full course of two doses.

Section 3: Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis (dTpa)

Q: Is there serology I can do for dTpa?

A: No – serology is not accepted for Diphtheria, Tetanus or Pertussis. Only details of a vaccination received less than 10 years prior to the submission date will be accepted.

Q: I have had an ADT vaccination in the past. Is this acceptable?

A: No – ADT vaccinations only cover Diphtheria & Tetanus. Students are required to have a dTpa vaccination that includes Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis.

Section 4: Measles, Mumps & Rubella

Q: Although I have received the required doses of Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine, my serology shows I have insufficient immunity. Do I require boosters?

A: Yes – students will need to have a minimum of one booster dose if they have insufficient immunity. Their medical practitioner or immunisation nurse will advise if two doses are required. Further serology is not required unless indicated by the placement provider.

Q: My serology for Measles, Mumps and Rubella shows I have immunity to only two out of the three diseases. Am I required to provide further evidence?

A: Yes – students will need to obtain a booster dose for MMR. Further serology is not required unless requested by the placement provider.

Q: My serology shows immunity to only 1 out of the 3 diseases. Do I need to provide further evidence?

A: You will need to speak to your doctor about the possibility of revaccination.

Section 5: Tuberculosis Test

Q: Am I required to have a Tuberculosis Test?

A: Yes – all students are required to submit details of a TB test. To meet the majority of current requirements we recommend students have this test completed approximately 3 months prior to their first placement.

Q: Am I required to provide evidence of a BCG vaccination for Tuberculosis?

A: No – BCG is not recommended for routine use in the general population, given the low incidence of TB in Australia and the variable efficacy reported in adults. However, some groups are at increased risk of infection and may benefit from BCG vaccination. Students should contact their medical practitioner or immunisation nurse for further advice.

Q: My placement will be held outside of Victoria. Which test is required?

A: For most non-Victorian placements, a Mantoux skin test is required. Generally Victorian health agencies accept both the Mantoux ST and QuantiFeron Gold test. If your allocated placement facility requires a specific test, you will be advised by the discipline specific Placement Officer.

Q: What if my results come back positive for Tuberculosis?

A: The student's medical practitioner will need to refer them for a chest x-ray and appointment at an Infectious Diseases Clinic. Documented evidence will need to be provided to the discipline specific Placement Officer outlining the testing undertaken and the student's latent TB status.

Q: How long is the Mantoux or Quantiferon Gold test valid for?

A: There is no recommended validity period for either a Mantoux Skin Test or Quantiferon Gold test. However, please be advised there are some placement providers that require TB tests within 3 to 12 months of the placement commencing. Students will be notified by their discipline specific Placement Officer if they need to provide a yearly TB test to meet a specific placement provider requirement. To meet the requirements of most placement providers students are advised to have their TB test done no more than 3 months prior to their first placement.

Section 6: Influenza

Q: My placement is scheduled prior to the annual influenza vaccination being available. What do I need to do?

A: Students who have received the previous year's vaccination will need to provide evidence of this. They can then have the current vaccination once it becomes available.

For students who did not receive the previous year's vaccination; the discipline specific Placement Officer will need to contact the placement provider to confirm if the student can attend placement as scheduled.

If a student did not receive the previous year's vaccination, their Placement Officer will contact their placement provider to confirm whether they can attend their placement as scheduled.

Q: I forgot to take the Influenza Declaration Form with me to get my flu vaccine. What should I do?

A: If you did not have the Influenza Declaration Form completed when you received your flu vaccine, then we are also able to accept an immunisation record from the clinic or pharmacy where you received it, provided that this includes your name, the name of the person who administered the vaccine, the date it was received, the name of the health service where you received it and the brand name and batch number of the vaccine.