

Ministry of Health (MOH), Screening and Vaccination Requirements as at June 2024

Screening and Vaccination Requirements*^	
Mumps, Measles and Rubella (MMR)	<p>All students should be immune or vaccinated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented proof of vaccination (2-dose series at least 4 weeks apart); or • Serological evidence of immunity against all three diseases; or • Laboratory confirmation of all three diseases <p>Self-declaration of past infection or vaccination is not considered as evidence of immunity.</p>
Varicella (Chickenpox)	<p>All students should be immune or vaccinated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented proof of vaccination with 2 doses of varicella vaccine given at least 4 weeks apart; or • Serological evidence of immunity; or • Diagnosis or verification of history of varicella disease by a physician or laboratory <p>When past history of varicella is uncertain, serology testing should be carried out to confirm immunity against varicella.</p>
Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis	<p>Students who have not received Tdap before: All students should receive tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccination, if they have not previously received the Tdap vaccination. These students should be vaccinated with a single dose of Tdap, followed by a booster dose of tetanus and diphtheria toxoids (Td) every 10 years. If Td is unavailable, it may be replaced with Tdap.</p> <p>Students who have previously received Tdap: Students who have previously received Tdap vaccination should receive a booster dose of Td every 10 years. If Td is unavailable, it may be replaced with Tdap.</p> <p>Documented proof of vaccination with Tdap or Td in the last 10 years would be acceptable as evidence of immunity. Self-declaration is not considered as proof of immunity.</p>
Influenza	<p>Annual (or half yearly as recommended by MOH) influenza vaccination is recommended for all students.</p>

Screening and Vaccination Requirements*^

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B screening should be carried out **before final admission** into the course, as results may affect students'/ schools' decision in continuing with the course.†

All students should be screened for hepatitis B carriage or should show documented serological evidence of immunity against hepatitis B (i.e. anti-HBs ≥ 10 mIU/mL). Students enrolled in courses that might require them to perform or assist in exposure prone procedures (EPPs) must be screened for Hepatitis B.

Students who do not have evidence of immunity: Hepatitis B negative students who do not have documented serological evidence of immunity against hepatitis B (i.e. anti-HBs ≥ 10 mIU/mL) should be vaccinated with the primary course series (i.e. 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine). A post-vaccination serology test should be conducted to determine the concentration of protective antibodies i.e. anti-HBs of at least 10mIU/mL. Students with anti-HBs concentrations ≥ 10 mIU/mL post-vaccination: For students with documented serology response (i.e. anti-HBs ≥ 10 mIU/mL) obtained prior to admission into the course, there is no need to repeat the hepatitis B screening. Schools and healthcare institutions can rely on students' previous hepatitis B screening results for Pre-employment Clinical Training (PECT) placements.

Students with anti-HBs < 10 mIU/mL post-vaccination: For those who are unable to acquire immunity after vaccinations (i.e. anti-HBs < 10 mIU/mL), these students should be revaccinated with either of the recommended options:

- (i) Option 1: Students can be vaccinated with a single booster dose followed by serology testing within 1-2 months. If an immune response is not mounted after the first booster dose, a second and third booster dose should be given to complete a second 3-dose vaccination series.
- (ii) Option 2: Alternatively, students with anti-HBs concentrations less than 10mIU/mL can be revaccinated with a second 3-dose vaccination series, followed by re-testing within 1-2 months.

If an immune response is not mounted after receiving two 3-dose vaccination series, the vaccine non-responder should be referred to an Occupational Health Physician for further counselling on the risk and susceptibility to acquiring HBV infection during the course of training.

Screening and Vaccination Requirements*[^]	
Hepatitis C and HIV	<p>Students enrolled in courses that might require them to perform or assist in EPPs must be screened for Hepatitis C[†] and HIV. Screening must be carried out before final admission into the course, as results may affect students'/ schools' decision in continuing with the course.</p> <p>Similar to Hepatitis B, students need not repeat Hepatitis C and HIV screening just before embarking on PECT. Post-Secondary Education Institutions (PSEIs) and healthcare institutions (HCIs) can rely on students' Hepatitis C and HIV screening results from enrolment screening, for PECT placements.</p> <p>Students who engage in high risk activities are encouraged to go for regular testing and must inform their respective PSEIs of their blood borne disease (BBD) positive status immediately after they become aware of this.[†]</p>
COVID-19	<p>Vaccination remains a critical tool in protecting our population from severe disease due to COVID-19. Students who are eligible should receive their vaccinations or boosters, where possible.</p>

* Students should comply unless they have medical reasons for not doing so (an official letter from a medical practitioner would be needed).

[^] Screening and vaccination requirements were outlined in the Ministry of Health (MOH) Circular No. 62/2022, titled "Updated Guidance on Clinical Training, Assessment, Research and Extracurricular Activities for Healthcare Students during Covid-19", issued on 11 May 2022.

[†] Students tested positive for Hep B, Hep C and/or HIV through screening before admission into the course or anytime during the course should not perform or assist in EPPs. From AY2015 onwards, students should not be rejected from the programme or clinical training based on Hep B, Hep C or HIV carriage status alone. The students of courses where EPPs are part of routine practice should, however, be counselled to understand that their employability and areas of practice may be restricted in future.

^{††} HCV carriage is defined as having detectable virus in the blood (i.e. HCV RNA positive). Positive serology (i.e. anti-HCV IgG positive) must be followed- up by a test for HCV RNA. Individuals who test anti-HCV IgG positive but HCV RNA negative can be considered to be non-carriers if they obtain a medical report from their treating physician certifying that they have cleared their infection.

Summary of vaccination requirements as at June 2024

Infectious Disease	Recommendations for Vaccinations	Acceptable evidence of immunity
Mumps, Measles and Rubella (MMR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If students do not have documented evidence of immunity, 2 doses; minimum interval of at least 4 weeks apart • Students who only received one dose of MMR during childhood should be vaccinated with second dose of MMR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented proof of vaccination; or • Serological evidence of immunity against all three diseases; or • Laboratory confirmation of all three diseases
Varicella (Chickenpox)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 doses; minimum interval of 4-8 weeks apart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented proof of vaccination with 2 doses of varicella vaccine given at least 4 weeks apart; or • Serological evidence of immunity; or • Diagnosis or verification of history of varicella disease by a physician or laboratory
Influenza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual (or half yearly based on MOH recommendations on seasonal influenza vaccination) 	Not applicable
Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 dose of Tdap, if students have not previously received it, followed by Td booster once every 10 years • If students have previously received 1 dose of Dtap, Td booster is recommended once every 10 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented proof of vaccination with Tdap or Td in the last 10 years • Self-declaration is not considered as proof of immunity

Summary of vaccination requirements as at June 2024

Infectious Disease	Recommendations for Vaccinations	Acceptable evidence of immunity
<p>Hepatitis B</p> <p>[Note: Students who perform or assist in exposure prone procedures must be screened]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary vaccination consists of 3 doses at 0, 1 and 6 months • All students who do not have evidence of immunity should be vaccinated (those practicing EPPs must be vaccinated) with a primary 3-dose vaccination series, followed by post-vaccination serology test (anti-HBs testing) within 1-2 months after completion of the primary 3-dose vaccination series to determine the level of protective antibodies (i.e. anti-HBs ≥ 10 mIU/mL) • Students with post-vaccination anti-HBs concentrations of < 10 mIU/mL should be revaccinated with a single booster (followed by 2 more booster doses if there is no immune response) or a second 3-dose series, followed by anti-HBs testing within 1 to 2 months • If there is still no immune response after two cycles of vaccination (i.e. primary 3-dose series followed by serological testing and an additional 3-dose series or 3 booster doses followed by serological testing), refer the non-responder to an Occupational Health physician for counselling • If an immune response has been documented (i.e. anti-HBs ≥ 10 mIU/mL), further serological testing and booster doses are not required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented proof of vaccination; and post vaccination serological evidence of immunity (anti-HBs concentrations of ≥ 10 mIU/mL); or • Serological evidence of immunity (anti-HBs concentrations of ≥ 10 mIU/mL)
<p>Hepatitis C and HIV</p>	<p>Not applicable for immunisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented proof of screening results
<p>COVID-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adhere to the current Ministry of Health (MOH) Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented proof of vaccination and booster dose(s)