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1. Overview

For students of Faculty programs with compulsory clinical placements, you will work in environments at risk of exposure to infectious diseases. Immunisation against vaccine-preventable diseases is mandatory to protect you, your patients/clients and colleagues. (You will also receive training in other precautions as part of your program, such as hand hygiene and scrubbing, gloving and gowning, to help minimise the risk of exposure.)

2. Definitions

- Immunisation:** Inducing immunity against infection using antigen to stimulate the body to produce its own antibodies.
- Immunity:** The condition of being immune. Immunity can be innate, for example, humans are innately immune to canine distemper, or conferred by a previous infection or immunisation. Blood tests are required to help determine levels of immunity.
- Vaccination:** The process of administering a vaccine to a person to produce immunity against infection. (Vaccination does not guarantee immunity.)

3. Immunisation Guidelines and Policy

Students on placement are considered healthcare workers and must at all times **remain current with and provide evidence of** compliance with Australian Immunisation Guidelines, as detailed in the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#). These guidelines inform [QLD Health policy](#) and [NSW Health Occupational Assessment, Screening and Vaccination Against Specified Infectious Diseases Policy](#) governing clinical practice, including student clinical placement, and have informed the development of the Faculty of Health Sciences & Medicine Immunisation Policy.

Immunisation requirements for Faculty programs with clinical placements are stipulated in the Faculty of Health Sciences & Medicine [Compliance Handbook](#) and must be initiated, maintained and paid for by the student.

4. Immunisation evidence mandated for student clinical placement in Australia

Disease	Evidence Required
Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	One adult dose of dTpa vaccine (Adacel or Boostrix) within the last 10 years (must not expire during placement/your studies)
Hepatitis B	Evidence of a complete age-appropriate course of Hep B vaccinations AND Serology showing Anti-HBs \geq 10mIU/mL at the commencement of your studies AND Triennial testing (or as required by a specific placement provider) to confirm ongoing immunity
Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR)	2 doses of MMR vaccine at least one month apart OR Serology showing positive IgG for Measles, Mumps and Rubella
Varicella	2 doses of Varicella vaccine at least one month apart OR Serology showing positive IgG for Varicella
Influenza	One dose of current seasonal Influenza vaccine (in Australia) by June 1 each year
HIV & HCV	Testing for HIV & HCV at the commencement of your studies and triennially (or as required by a specific placement provider) thereafter. With each test, you must complete and submit the NSW Health Blood Borne Virus Form .
Tuberculosis	If in your lifetime you have spent 12 weeks or more in countries considered high-risk for TB and/or have specific symptoms and/or have been exposed to someone with TB, you will be instructed to undertake TB screening in Australia . This will be determined upon receipt of your TB Assessment Tool Attachment 7 – a form you are required to complete as part of the compliance process. The fastest way to complete TB screening is to request an Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) TB Quantiferon test from your doctor. The test costs around \$80 to \$100, and results should come back within a week or two. Not all pathology collection centres can perform the test, as special blood vials are required, so it is a good idea to call your nearest centre first to check.

5. Additional vaccination requirements

Please be aware that in certain specialised clinical settings, for example, in transplant, oncology or neonatal wards, the health facility may require additional vaccinations or other evidence of protection to ensure that the risk to vulnerable patients is minimised. You will be advised if this is required for your placement.

6. Conscientious objection to vaccinations

Our partnered health facilities do not honour conscientious objection to vaccinations. If you are a non-responder to one or more vaccines or have contraindications to vaccinations, we recommend you consult with an infectious disease physician to discuss risks and options prior to undertaking your chosen program.

7. Vaccine non-response, contraindications or reactions

A small percentage of the population does not respond to some vaccines. If your serology shows that you haven't responded to an initial course of vaccination (e.g. for Hepatitis B: HBsAb <10 mIU/mL), you may be required to have another course before being classified as a "non-responder".

In the event of non-response, contraindications or a severe/allergic reaction to a vaccine, you should consult with an infectious disease physician to discuss risks and options prior to undertaking clinical/professional practice placements. You should also seek the advice of your doctor to clarify any vaccine issues you may have.

All reasonable effort will be made to find you suitable placements. However, placements can't be guaranteed if you are not fully protected, and this may affect your ability to progress in your program.

8. Procedure for providing immunisation evidence

All compliance for clinical placement, including compulsory immunisation requirements, is managed through Osler, a clinical governance platform. Your Osler account will be activated upon enrolment, and you are required to submit your immunisation evidence (official medical records) to Osler by the Orientation Week deadline. For complete instructions, please visit the [Bond University Compliance web page](#).

9. Students living with a blood borne virus (BBV) who perform exposure prone procedures (EPPs)

This section refers to students affected by Hepatitis B (HBV), Hepatitis C (HCV) or Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

Principles of medical ethics and professionalism are foundational to the following:

- The rights of all patients to good standards of practice and care from health care workers and students.
- That students owe a duty of care to patients and are responsible for protecting patients against infection.
- The Queensland Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 prohibits discrimination on the basis of impairment (including the presence of blood borne virus).
- Students who are infected are entitled to confidentiality as afforded to any other patient, however in exceptional circumstances their name may be disclosed in the interest of patient protection

What are exposure prone procedures (EPPs)?

As defined by the Communicable Diseases Network Australia, “EPPs are procedures where there is a risk of injury to the healthcare worker resulting in exposure of the patient’s open tissues to the blood of the healthcare worker. These procedures include those where the healthcare worker’s hands, even when gloved, may be in contact with sharp instruments, needle tips or sharp tissues (spicules of bone or teeth) inside a patient’s open body cavity, wound or confined anatomical space where the hands or fingertips may not be completely visible at all times.” More information on which procedures are exposure prone can be found in the [Guidance on classification of exposure prone and non-exposure prone procedures in Australia 2017](#).

Complying with Australian National Guidelines

As stipulated by the [Australian National Guidelines for the Management of Healthcare Workers Living With Blood Borne Viruses And Healthcare Workers Who Perform Exposure Prone Procedures At Risk Of Exposure To Blood Borne Viruses](#), healthcare workers (including students attending clinical placement) must:

- Be under the ongoing care of a treating doctor with relevant expertise (e.g. an infectious disease physician)
- Comply with prescribed treatment
- Have ongoing viral load monitoring at the appointed times
- Not perform EPPs if particular viral load or viral clearance criteria are not met (see detailed information in the guidelines according to the specific BBV)
- Seek advice regarding any change in health condition that may affect their fitness to practise or impair their health
- Release monitoring information to the treating doctor
- If required, release de-identified information to the relevant area of the jurisdictional health department/expert advisory committee
- if required, release health monitoring information to a designated person in their workplace in the event of a potential exposure incident to assess the requirement for further public health action.

For more information, please refer to the [Australian National Guidelines for the Management of Healthcare Workers Living With Blood Borne Viruses And Healthcare Workers Who Perform Exposure Prone Procedures At Risk Of Exposure To Blood Borne Viruses](#).

10. Related Procedures

- Bond University Bond University COR4.01 Student Support Policy
- Bond University [Pregnancy and Your Studies Guidelines](#)
- HSM – Management of Allegation of Student Misconduct

11. Related Guidelines & Forms

For complete instructions and all relevant forms, please visit the [Bond University Compliance web page](#).