

Immunisation Screening and Vaccinations for Entry to Health Science Professional Programmes at University of Otago – 2024

Rationale

The policy is aimed at ensuring that as health science students entering professional programmes where you will have close contact with and responsibility to clients and patients, your infectious disease (ID) risk status is known to you and the University. Past experience has shown that antibody levels on blood tests as part of screening indicate susceptibility to one or more infections in a substantial number of students.

A detailed rationale for each test/vaccine is here:

- *Policy for Infectious Diseases for Health Professional Students*
<https://www.otago.ac.nz/healthsciences/students/otago668213.pdf>

Requirements

- Students must undergo a blood test to check for evidence of infection with, or immunity to, blood-borne viruses (Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV) and respiratory pathogens (Measles, Mumps, Varicella and Tuberculosis (TB)). If results indicate lack of sufficient immunity, or evidence of past and possible chronic infection, you may need one or more vaccines and/or confirmatory tests.
- Students must have documentation of receipt of a booster vaccination for **pertussis** (whooping cough) – this vaccine also includes diphtheria and tetanus - after December 2021 - see page 3
- With respect to COVID-19 vaccines, students are required to provide documentation of all vaccine doses received with dates of receipt from My COVID Record. If fewer than 3 doses have been received, justification is required. It is important to note that Te Whatu Ora policy (2023) requires students who have received fewer than 3 doses to undergo a risk assessment and be fit-tested for N95 mask-wearing to attend a clinical placement, as is required for new employees.

If you do not complete or attend immunity screening/vaccination clinics, this significantly increases cost to you and will delay or prevent commencing clinical placements.

Procedure

You do NOT need to see a Doctor to complete these tests

- Have the required blood tests **before 22 January 2024. Please ONLY use the lab portal for your blood tests** (We may not accept results from other labs and you may be asked to repeat the tests at your own expense). The portal will take your payment, and provide details of your nearest lab collection centre. The lab form is e-mailed to you once you complete the portal/payment process. You must print out your lab request and take it to the lab collection centre.
- **Portal link** <https://bookings.sclabs.co.nz/>
- At the lab collection centre, you must have current photographic ID e.g. Passport, Drivers Licence or Student ID
- Obtain a pertussis booster (available at pharmacies and medical centres). Ensure you have a vaccination record and/or ask your Practice Nurse or Pharmacist to complete the vaccination record section on page 3
- Scan and email completed vaccination record (page 3) to sh-vaxclinic@otago.ac.nz **before 22 January 2024.**

If your vaccination record or blood test indicate that vaccines are required, clinics are held in March – April. You will be notified via student web mail of dates/times by late February.

Costs

- Blood testing charges are set by the laboratories.
- Vaccine costs are paid per vaccine required.

Study-Link allows you to claim immunity screening and vaccination costs as course related costs.

Results

- The lab will send your test results directly to Student Health. Your results and vaccination records will be stored at Student Health Services.
- You will be advised via student webmail of your results in late February.
- Your screening results and vaccination status will be forwarded to your Professional School and you will be sent a copy for your own records.
- You will be informed if your results indicate the need for vaccine(s) or referral for further discussion and review to other health professionals and how this will occur.

If **two consecutive recalls** for screening or vaccination are missed, your Head of Department will be informed.

Checklist

To be completed before 22 January 2024

- Immunity screening completed <https://bookings.sclabs.co.nz/>
- Provide record of **pertussis** booster given since December 2021
- Sign consent for disclosure of results – see Vaccination and Consent Form
- Scanned and emailed your completed record to sh-vaxclinic@otago.ac.nz

Please read the above information thoroughly

Got questions? Check out our FAQs

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/studenthealth/services/otago669091.html>

If you still have questions, please email us at sh-vaxclinic@otago.ac.nz

4. ALL students MUST sign consent below

I consent to the release of my serology results and vaccination history to University of Otago staff of the Professional Programme to which I am admitted, as evidence of complying with the Infectious Diseases Policy for Health Professional students: otago.ac.nz/healthsciences/otago668213.pdf

| Student Signature | Date |
|-------------------|------|
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