



School of Medicine Infectious Diseases and Immunisation Policy

Introduction

All enrolled students are required to read, understand and comply with the Infectious Diseases and Immunisation Policy.

The policy has been developed by the Deakin Medical School to minimise the risk of infections that may occur between students, patients and other health care workers. While these risks cannot be totally eliminated, it is essential that the necessary steps are taken at all times to minimise such risks. It should be noted that students have an ethical duty to be aware of their immunity or infectious status to ensure that they protect themselves as individuals and to prevent placing others at risk of infection.

Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery Students/Doctor of Medicine

This policy and guidelines are consistent with the Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand (MDANZ) Guidelines for Infectious Diseases Policies and Programs for Medical Students and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

Bachelor of Vision Science/ Master of Optometry Students

This policy and guidelines are consistent with the Optometry Code of Conduct for the Optometry Board of Australia (OBA) and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) regulatory information.

Bachelor of Medical Imaging Students

This policy and guidelines are consistent with the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia (MRPBA) and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) regulatory information.

Higher Degrees by Research (HDR) Students in a Clinical Setting working with patients

HDR students working in a clinical setting who may be involved with blood sampling or invasive techniques, must adhere to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

(AHPRA) regulatory information and the Deakin University Immunisation (Vaccination) Guidelines available at:

http://www.deakin.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/228620/immunisation-guidelines.pdf

Staff and Students with Infectious Diseases Deakin link:

http://www.deakin.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/228623/infectious-diseases.pdf

HDR and Honours Students working in Laboratories on and off Deakin Campuses

Students are required to follow recommendations of immunisation against potential infectious biological agents especially when working with human samples. These recommendations are in conjunction with the Deakin University Immunisation guidelines available at Deakin University Immunisation (Vaccination) Guidelines available at:

http://www.deakin.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/228620/immunisation-guidelines.pdf

Staff and Students with Infectious Diseases Deakin link:

http://www.deakin.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/228623/infectious-diseases.pdf

Students working with experimental animals should ensure they have up to date tetanus antigen. Tetanus can be prevented by [vaccination](#) with [tetanus toxoid](#).

Infection control strategies

Various infection control strategies, known as 'standard precautions' and 'additional precautions' are utilised to minimise infectious disease risks. These precautions include assessing the risk posed by persons with particular infections and clinical syndromes, hand-washing, aseptic technique, disposal of sharps and clinical waste, use of single-use only equipment, sterilisation and disinfection of re-usable equipment, use of personal protective equipment and managing patients in various forms of isolation or working with biological agents in a laboratory setting. All procedures and work instructions are based on the assumption that blood and body fluids should always be handled as if they are infected.

http://www.deakin.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/228622/infection-control.pdf

Extract from Deakin University Infection Control guidelines

Key Responsibilities

1. Local managers, supervisors and course coordinators are responsible for creating and maintaining a safe system of work where ever there is a risk of infection. This includes carrying out risk assessments, providing appropriate training, and developing work practices and infection control measures.
2. Local managers, supervisors and staff supervising students are responsible for monitoring work practices and infection control measures.

Immunisation is also used to provide additional protection against many of the infectious organisms present in health care settings or laboratories where human samples may be used in research projects or working with live animals, tissue and excreta. Students must be vaccinated according to this immunisation policy provided by the School. Immunisation and assessment are offered through the Deakin University Health Service (see below) or students may prefer see their local general practitioner (GP).

Students may opt out of the immunisation program on medical or conscientious grounds but only with the written approval of the Head of School. In such instances, students will be referred to an infectious diseases and/or occupational health specialist for further advice on protecting themselves in the case of working in a health care setting with patients, to protect themselves and their patients from infectious diseases.

Immunisation program

School of Medicine Course	Required Immunisation or immunization status
<p>Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery/Doctor of Medicine Students</p> <p>Bachelor of Medical Imaging Students</p> <p>Optometry Bachelor of Vision Science/ Master of Optometry Students</p> <p>Honours or HDR candidates on Clinical Placement in a health care settings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Tetanus and diphtheria <i>OR</i> tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis vaccination records. <input type="checkbox"/> Polio vaccination records. <input type="checkbox"/> Measles, mumps and rubella vaccination records <i>OR</i> positive blood test results. <input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis B vaccination records <i>OR</i> positive blood test results. <input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis A vaccination records. <input type="checkbox"/> Recent pertussis vaccination record (Boostrix/Adacel <i>OR</i> Boostrix/IPV/Adacel/polio). <input type="checkbox"/> Mantoux testing <i>OR</i> Quantiferon Gold Assay blood testing certificate or documentation (within the last 12 months). <input type="checkbox"/> Chickenpox vaccination records <i>OR</i> positive chickenpox blood test result. <input type="checkbox"/> Serology for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV to determine infection status. <input type="checkbox"/> Influenza vaccination record (within the last 12 months). <i>New vaccine will come out in March /April. You must obtain the new vaccine every 12 months.</i>
<p>Honours or HDR candidates working in Laboratories</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Tetanus and diphtheria <i>OR</i> tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis vaccination records. <input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis B vaccination records <input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis A vaccination records.

The following link from the Department of Health –Australian Immunisation Handbook Part 3, Vaccination for Special Risk Groups, may be useful for further information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, some vaccines are specifically recommended for use in Indigenous persons see part 3.1.

Information is available for persons who may have allergies, who are pregnant or planning to travel, see part 3.2 or immunized compromised persons see part 3.3

<http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/handbook10part3>

3.1 Vaccination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

3.2 Vaccination for international travel

3.3 Groups with special vaccination requirements

- Immunisation and assessment are offered by the Deakin University Health Service at the Waurn Ponds Campus; however students are encouraged to see their local GP if preferred. The Deakin service will provide a confidential personal report of immunisations and tests to the student (a copy of which should be filed for further reference). It is highly recommended that if students do require immunisations and assessments (see below) that this takes place as early as possible prior to the commencement of the course. An appointment should be made with the Campus Nurse or your GP, who will initially assess your needs according to the School of Medicine Vaccination and Blood Test Check List' and 'Statement of Compliance' (see below).
- Students who will go on placement in a clinical setting must be up-to-date with immunisations against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella (German measles), varicella (chicken pox), hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and annual influenza. The 'Vaccination and Blood Test Checklist' must show that the student is up-to-date with these required vaccinations and should be returned to the School of Medicine by the end of the first four weeks of the commencement of the course.
- If there is no documented history of previous infection or immunisation, serology tests will need to be performed to establish the status of immunity to these infectious diseases (except influenza). A Vaccination Schedule can then be put in place for any of these diseases for which immunity is lacking. Where clinically indicated, tests will be performed after immunisation to confirm immunity. Follow-up of students who fail to respond to vaccinations, will be required in consultation with the School and arrangements made for follow-up infectious diseases and/or occupational health specialist for further advice.

Immunisation for tuberculosis (BCG vaccination) is not recommended for general Australian populations. **However you must have had a Mantoux test (or Quantiferon Gold Assay blood test) in the past 12 months.** Deakin University Health Service will follow up any unexplained positive Mantoux reading. Please check with either your medical practitioner or the Deakin Medical service regarding any requirements for BCG vaccination.

- Vaccinations are available at the Deakin Health Service from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and can be performed by either the Campus Doctor or Nurse. If you choose to see the Campus Nurse, please note you will need to bring vaccination prescriptions with you. No appointment is necessary to see the Campus Nurse. If you would rather see the Campus Doctor then you will need to make an appointment.

Charges at the Deakin Health Service

- The doctor's consultation and pathology will be bulk billed for students with a **current Medicare Card** at no cost to the student. For international students with **current Overseas Healthcare Cards**, there is no cost for the doctor but there is a charge for the pathology (including post-vaccination testing) which the student can then claim back through Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC). There is no cost incurred if a student sees the Campus Nurse. Mantoux testing can be bulk billed for Medicare Card holders and will incur a small cost to international students. Students must pay for all vaccines - total out of pocket expenses will depend on the vaccination requirements of the individual student.
- It should be noted that if students elect to go overseas as part of their studies there may be additional health risks and precautions may be required to reduce these risks. Students may require a travel health consultation to determine if they need additional immunisations or prophylaxis tailored to the countries to be visited and the tasks they are likely to perform. Students will be responsible for any expenses incurred.

Blood-borne virus infections

Awareness of blood-borne viruses such as hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is essential in health care settings. In addition to the potential (but small) personal risks to students, there are risks to patients from actively infected students.

Screening

As outlined in the Guidelines for Infectious Diseases Policies and Programs for Health care workers and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) it is a requirement for students working in a clinical setting to be aware of their infective status for the following blood-borne viruses, this includes HDR students working in a clinical setting.

Hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV: Screening for these viruses must be performed and can be done through the Deakin University Health Service. Tests must include:

- HIV antibody test
- Hepatitis B surface antigen. Students with a positive test should have the following tests performed to determine the relative degree of infectivity:
 - Hepatitis B antigen

- Hepatitis B DNA
- Hepatitis C antibody.

Students with a positive test for HIV antibody, hepatitis B surface antigen or hepatitis C antibody will be assisted to arrange appropriate follow up and further investigation and will be counselled about participation in clinical activities.

The attached '*Student Statement of Compliance*' stating that these tests have been performed should be returned to the Medical School by the end of the first four weeks of the commencement of the course.

Students who are infected with a blood-borne virus must consult a specialist medical practitioner experienced in the particular blood-borne virus infection to assess their medical condition and advise which clinical activities they can perform. Assistance will be provided to arrange appropriate follow up. The Head of School should be informed on a confidential basis so that learning activities can be modified to allow students to complete their studies. Academic, personal and career counselling will be made available.

Students who engage in at-risk behaviour and/or suspect that they may have been infected with a blood-borne virus during the course of study have an ethical duty to seek testing and counselling. The University Health Service will provide pre- and post- testing counselling for students and this will be carried out in accordance with the right of the individual to confidentiality and privacy.

Students with infectious diseases are expected to exercise their duty of care to other members of the University community and general public. If this duty of care is breached, the individual and the University may be subject to legal action under statutory provisions such as the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Health Act, or under common law.

"Deakin is required as far as is reasonably practicable to provide and maintain a workplace that is safe and without risk to health. Employees, Students and others are required to take care of their own health and safety and follow the procedures of the organisation.

Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery/Doctor of Medicine Students

Students are expected to follow safe practice to prevent the transmission of an infectious disease; students who have been diagnosed with an infectious disease are expected to exercise their duty of care to prevent the transmission to other members of the University community and general public. If this duty of care is breached, the individual and the University may be subject to legal action under statutory provisions such as the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Health Act. The student and/or their medical practitioner may seek confidential advice from the MDANZ Guidelines for Infectious Diseases Policies and Programs and AHPRA, who may impose restrictions on course-related activities or clinical practice after graduation.

Bachelor of Vision Science/ Master of Optometry Students

Students with infectious diseases are expected to exercise their duty of care to other members of the University community and general public. If this duty of care is breached, the individual and the University may be subject to legal action under statutory provisions such as the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Health Act, or under common law. The student and/or their medical practitioner may seek confidential advice from the Optometry Code of Conduct with AHPRA, who may impose restrictions on course-related activities or clinical practice after graduation.

Bachelor of Medical Imaging Students

Students with infectious diseases are expected to exercise their duty of care to other members of the University community and general public. If this duty of care is breached, the individual and the University may be subject to legal action under statutory provisions such as the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Health Act, or under common law. The student and or their medical practitioner may seek confidential advice from the MRPBA and AHPRA, who may impose restrictions on course-related activities or clinical practice after graduation.

HDR and Honours Students

Students with infectious diseases who may be involved with patient tissue or blood sampling during their degree are expected to exercise their duty of care to other members of the University community and general public. If this duty of care is breached, the individual and the University may be subject to legal action under statutory provisions such as the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Health Act, or under common law. The student and/or their medical practitioner may seek confidential advice from the University Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Unit and HDR coordinator; they should consult with their supervisor to ensure non exposure to patients.

Additional information

For additional information on support services please refer to link below for all students

<http://www.deakin.edu.au/about-deakin/administrative-divisions/equity-diversity/disability-support/information-for-staff/staff-disability>

Please also check the AHPRA web site for provisions for all Health Care workers, in relation to all immunisation requirements and conditions for HCW's with communicable diseases.

Exclusion from exposure-prone procedures

Students infected with blood-borne viruses **must** exclude themselves from 'exposure-prone procedures'. These procedures are characterised by the potential for contact between the skin (usually finger or thumb) and sharp surgical instruments, needles or sharp tissues (splinters/pieces of bone or teeth) in body cavities or in poorly visualised or confined body sites (including the mouth). Advice will be provided by a specialist medical practitioner in consultation with the Head of School. Doctors treating students with a blood-borne viral infection who fail to self-exclude or modify their practice may have a legal duty to inform their State Medical Board, OBA, MRPBA and the Head of School of Medicine in the case of HDR students in clinical settings.

Exposure to body fluids

If during the course of their training a student sustains an injury involving exposure to blood or other body fluids, fellow student or health care worker or in a laboratory setting, the student should immediately seek appropriate management through their supervisor in accordance with protocols in place at the site or University campus or health service or personal practitioner at or where the injury occurred. All students have access to occupational health surveillance and management in relation to blood borne and other infectious diseases (at no cost to the student) at all clinical placement sites.

The student will be clinically and serologically evaluated for HIV antibody, hepatitis B surface antigen and hepatitis C antibody and appropriate counselling will be offered. For suspected HIV exposure, immediate commencement of prophylactic treatment will be considered by the treating medical officer. Further testing and counselling may be necessary depending on the initial results. For suspected hepatitis virus exposure, the immunisation status of the person will be assessed and appropriate action taken.

Further information

The information that is covered in this Policy concerns important questions of public health which affect you as a student and may affect patients, fellow student or health care worker with whom you come into contact. Students are required to read and understand this policy and if there are any matters which require clarification you are encouraged to discuss these with Course Director and or the Head of School.

All Medicine and Medical Imaging students must read the '*School of Medicine Infectious Disease Policy*' (this document) then return both forms '*Student Statement of Compliance*' and '*Vaccination and Blood Test Checklist*' to the **School of Medicine Reception Level 3 Building ka** in a sealed envelope addressed to the Clinical Placements Coordinator, no later than the end of the first four weeks of the commencement of the course.

All Optometry students must read the '*School of Medicine Infectious Disease Policy*' (this document) then return both forms '*Student Statement of Compliance*' and '*Vaccination and Blood Test Checklist*' to the **Optometry Reception Level 3 Building dd** in a sealed envelope addressed to the Clinical Placements Coordinator, no later than the end of the first four weeks of the commencement of the course.

All Higher Degree by Research students either **in a clinical setting off campus or students working in laboratories** must read the '*School of Medicine Infectious Disease Policy*' (this document) then return both forms '*Student Statement of Compliance*' and '*Vaccination and Blood Test Checklist*' to the **School of Medicine Reception Level 3 Building ka** in a sealed envelope addressed to the Laboratory Manager no later than the end of the first four weeks of the commencement of the course.

Vaccination Requirements for students in the School of Medicine

Procedure for Compliance with the Infectious Diseases Policy:

1. Read and understand the Infectious Diseases Policy for Deakin Medical Students
2. Make an appointment with a GP to organise required vaccinations and/or blood tests. The Campus Nurse, located at Student Life can administer vaccinations; however scripts need to be brought in with you. The Campus Nurse works on a drop in basis. The Campus Doctor, also located at Student Life, can write scripts and administer vaccinations, but you must make an appointment to see the Campus Doctor. The '*Vaccination and Blood Test Checklist*' included with the attached "*Student Statement of Compliance*' documentation **must** be taken with you to your GP appointments.

For enquiries and appointments at Student Life

Appointments can be made by phone or in person at Student Life Reception. Further information is also available on the health service website at:

www.deakin.edu.au/studentlife/health

Geelong campus at Waurin Ponds. Campus Nurse:

Jenny Vinnicombe

Student Life, Administration Building (Building jb)

Phone: 03 5227 1221

jennifer.vinnicombe@deakin.edu.au

Please note the following:

Hepatitis B vaccination

Hepatitis B vaccination course comprises **3** injections at **0, 1 and 6 months or rapid schedule day 0, 7, 21 and 4th booster at 12 months**. As it takes 6 months to complete the hepatitis B primary course, we recommend that you commence vaccinations within the first fortnight of semester/trimester one, or as soon as possible.

NB: 1 – 2 months after completion of the hepatitis B course you are required to have a blood test to check immunisation status.

Hepatitis A vaccination

Hepatitis A vaccination comprises **2** injections at **0, 6 – 12 months**. **NB: Twinrix, a combination of hepatitis A & B is available, consisting of 3 injections following the same schedules as hepatitis B (i.e. 0, 1 & 6 months or rapid course)**. Again, as it takes at least 6 months to complete the course, we recommend that you commence vaccinations within the first fortnight of semester/trimester one, or as soon as possible.

Mantoux testing TB Human Services TB program recommends healthcare workers have Mantoux or Mantoux or Quantiferon Gold testing only.

Mantoux testing is a two part screening test for TB. Day one requires a small skin test into the skin of the forearm, which is 'read' 3 days later. On completion of the reading you will be issued with a certificate of Mantoux testing. Dates are advertised at Student Life reception and on the Health Service website at www.deakin.edu.au/studentlife/health. You can also undertake the Quantiferon Gold Assay blood test (as an alternate screening method) if Mantoux testing is not available.

HDR and Honours Students working in Laboratories on and off Deakin Campuses

Students working in laboratories are not required to have screening for HIV or TB due unless you suspect you may have been exposed during the course of your project. It is recommended that you are vaccinated against hepatitis B, if you are working with human blood and body fluids and or tetanus if working in the labs and especially dealing with animals. Generally researchers would require hep A only if working with human faecal samples, however the offer of a combined vaccination is available; this would consist of 3 injections spaced over 6 months with serology to follow. It is important to have serology check for immunity approximately 1 month after the last injection. If you have immunisation against hep B but require hep A, you will receive 2 injections over 6 months, with serology testing to follow. If you only need hep B, you will have 3 injections spaced over 6 months. You must complete the *'Vaccination and Blood Test Checklist'* and return to the Laboratory Manager at the commencement of your course (see below). If you require any of the suggested immunisations or if you need to have follow up immunisation, the results need to be submitted to the Laboratory Manager as soon as you finalise and receive your serology test results. Generally most people receive these injections when attending secondary schooling and will not be required to have additional follow up immunisation.

If you unsure what vaccinations you have had or need, the nurse can do serology testing to find out your immunity levels.

The cost of having serology done is free (bulk billed) if you have a current Medicare card. Overseas students you should have overseas health cover, you can claim back part of the cost from your insurer.

You will be required to return the *'Vaccination and Blood Test Checklist'* (ticking only the above listed vaccinations –all other vaccinations do not apply) and *'Statement of Compliance with the School of Medicine Infectious Diseases Policy'* to the School of Medicine Laboratory Manager within four weeks of commencing your course.

It is an honour or PhD student's choice to have Influenza vaccinations but would be at the cost of the student.

References/Links:

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency Committee of Deans of Australian Medical Schools

Guidelines for Infectious Diseases Policies and Programs for Medical Students
<http://www.medicaldeans.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Infectious-Disease-Policy.pdf>

Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia
<http://www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines/Codes-and-Guidelines/Code-of-conduct.aspx>

The Australian Immunisation Handbook

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/handbook10part1>

National Health and Medical Research Council: Infection Control in the Health Care Setting
Guidelines for the Prevention of Transmission of Infectious Diseases

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/ic6>

Further information is also available from:

- The Health and Wellbeing Pages in the Division of Student Life website
www.deakin.edu.au/studentlife
- University **Immunisation (Vaccination) Guidelines** available at:-
http://www.deakin.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/228620/immunisation-guidelines.pdf
- Staff and Students with Infectious Diseases Deakin link
http://www.deakin.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/228623/infectious-diseases.pdf

Final Note: - Students who do not comply with the above policy will not be able to attend clinical placements or be allowed to work in our laboratories, unless there are extenuating circumstances and approved by the Head of School.