

## **Health Screening and Vaccination Requirements for NUS Pharmacy Students** **Updated on 27 Feb 2017**

In accordance with the Singapore Ministry of Health requirements, students enrolled in a healthcare professional programme with direct patient contact or contact with patient specimens during clinical training must undergo the following health screening and meet these vaccination requirements:

### **Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)**

1. Students must have HBsAg status ascertained by undertaking a HBV screening in order for them to carry out training in healthcare institutions (HCIs)
2. Students must undergo the screening, regardless of any screening and/or immunization done previously.
3. Students who are tested negative for HBsAg but are not immune (anti-HBs negative or < 10 IU/L) are required to be immunized so as to protect themselves and to prevent HBV transmission to patients at the HCIs.
4. All screening(s) and immunization(s) must be completed within the deadline stipulated by the Department.
5. Post vaccination Hepatitis B antibody blood test must be done one month after immunization.
6. Applicants who decline to undergo HBV screening, furnish evidence of HBV immunization, and/or refuse to be immunized will have to produce an excuse letter from a physician stating the reason for not undertaking the screening.

### **Varicella Zoster Virus (Chickenpox)**

1. Students must produce serological evidence or documented record of **two** previous Chickenpox vaccinations, if any. Self-reporting of past infection or vaccination is not sufficient.
2. If such evidence is not available or if records show only the presence of one previous injection, students may undergo screening or choose to receive the Chickenpox vaccination straight away.
3. Students whose screening results show negative or equivocal titres as defined by the reference range of the testing laboratory will require subsequent vaccination.
4. Students may begin classes without documentary evidence of vaccination for Chickenpox if he/she has a letter from a physician stating a reason why he/she cannot receive the vaccine.

### **Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)**

1. Students must produce serological evidence or documented record of MMR vaccination during childhood; proof of having had two MMR injections during childhood shall be acceptable.
2. If such evidence is not available, the student will have to undergo screening for MMR IgG and subsequent vaccination, if required.
3. Screening is optional for students willing to receive MMR vaccination straight away

### **Pertussis**

1. All students who come into contact with newborns or infants should be vaccinated.
2. Those who have not previously received tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis (Tdap) should be vaccinated with a single dose of Tdap, regardless of the interval since the last dose of tetanus or diphtheria-containing vaccine.
3. Students should produce documented proof of vaccination with Tdap. Proof of vaccination with Td is insufficient. Self-declaration is not accepted as proof of immunity.

### **Influenza**

1. Students are advised to have an annual influenza vaccination every year if they are undergoing clinical training at the HCIs.

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### **Notes**

1. **The above health screening and vaccination requirements are also applicable to selected Post-Graduate Pharmacy students who carry out research or clerkship activities at HCIs.**
2. **Students must bear the cost of the required health screening(s) and vaccination(s).**
3. **All Students are encouraged to have their screening(s) and immunization(s) done between 8:30am to 10:30am or 1:30pm to 3:00pm (Mon to Fri) at the University Health Centre (UHC) at Level 1, 20 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119080.**
4. **Students are to bring along their identification card, health booklets (for Singaporeans) or any other documentary proof of vaccination records and this copy of Health Screening and Vaccination Requirements upon registration at UHC for medical examination.**

5. **If students chose to be screened by a registered medical practitioner of their choice, they must submit to UHC satisfactory evidence of such screening(s) and immunization(s) where necessary during the University admission medical examination, where applicable.**
6. **The University reserves the right to require its health professional students to undertake the above and other requisite health screening(s) or vaccination(s), as and when the need arises, before and during the course of study.**

The costs (inclusive of 7% GST) for screening and immunization, as well as the deadline by which the screening(s) and immunization(s) must be completed, are set out in the table below:

Screening Test	Screening (Can be done within 6 months before commencement of semester 1 of study)		Vaccination		Post Vaccination Screening
	Cost	Deadline	Cost	Deadline	Deadline
<p><b>Hepatitis B Screen</b></p> <p>(Screening is compulsory)</p>	<p><b>\$26.00</b></p> <p>(Post vaccination antibody blood test at \$16.00)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$30.00 per injection</li> <li>• 1 or 3 injections over 6 months if required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> injection within 1 month of screening</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> injection within the next 5 months if necessary</li> </ul> <p>(Target all 3 injections to complete by end February of semester 2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 month after immunization of 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li> <li>• If result is still “non-reactive”; to proceed with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> dose followed by post vaccination screening 1 month after 3<sup>rd</sup> dose</li> </ul>
<p><b>Varicella Zoster Virus IgG (Chickenpox)</b></p> <p>Screening and vaccination are not necessary for students who are able to produce serological evidence or documented record of two previous Chickenpox vaccinations</p>	<p><b>\$47.00</b></p> <p>Screening is optional for students willing to receive Chickenpox vaccination straight away</p>	<p>Target to complete by mid July or before start of semester 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$75.00 per injection</li> <li>• 2 injections over 6 to 10 weeks</li> <li>• 1 injection required if student has had 1 injection previously</li> </ul>	<p>To be completed within 10 weeks of screening</p> <p>(Target by end October of semester 1)</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>
<p><b>Rubella IgG</b></p> <p><b>Mumps IgG</b></p> <p><b>Measles IgG</b></p> <p>Screening and vaccination are not necessary for students who are able to produce serological evidence or documented record of two previous MMR vaccinations</p>	<p><b>\$28.00</b></p> <p><b>\$75.00</b></p> <p><b>\$90.00</b></p> <p>Screenings are optional for students willing to receive MMR vaccination straight away</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$35.00 per MMR injection</li> <li>• 2 injections over 4 to 6 weeks</li> <li>• 1 injection required if student has had 1 injection previously</li> </ul>	<p>To be completed within 6 weeks of screening</p> <p>(Target by end September of semester 1)</p>	

Pertussis	Not applicable		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$40.00 per injection</li> <li>• 1 dose of Tdap, irrespective of the interval since the last dose of tetanus or diphtheria-containing vaccine</li> </ul>	To be complete before start of semester 1	Not Applicable
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The above health requirements and cost of screening(s) and immunization(s) are subject to change.

All students are to keep an original copy of the screening and vaccination records throughout the course of study. Such records are necessary to serve as documentary evidence for fitness to practice in a healthcare setting.

Students are to submit hard copies of documentary evidence to NUS Department of Pharmacy for verification.

- An empty file will be distributed to student in your Year 3 Semester 1
- Students are required to collate the screening reports, Vaccination and Post vaccination records (if any) in the files. The file is to be submitted to the Dept Office by end December of the third year semester 1 of studies.