Health Screening and Vaccination Requirements for NUS Pharmacy Students (Cohort 2020 and onwards)

Updated on 3 Jul 2020

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.

**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.

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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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screening Test</th>
<th>Screening (Can be done within 6 months before commencement of semester 1 of study)</th>
<th>Vaccination</th>
<th>Post Vaccination Screening</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hepatitis B Screen</strong></td>
<td>$26.00</td>
<td>$30.00 per injection</td>
<td>1 month after immunization of 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Screening is compulsory)</em></td>
<td><em>(Post vaccination antibody blood test at $16.00)</em></td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; injection within 1 month of screening</td>
<td>If result is still “non-reactive”; to proceed with 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; and 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; dose followed by post vaccination screening 1 month after 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Varicella Zoster Virus IgG</strong></td>
<td><strong>$47.00</strong></td>
<td>$75.00 per injection</td>
<td>To be completed within 10 weeks of screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Chickenpox)</em></td>
<td>Screening is optional for students willing to receive Chickenpox vaccination straight away</td>
<td>2 injections over 6 to 10 weeks</td>
<td><em>(By end of semester 1, week 13)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Target to complete by mid July or before start of semester 1</td>
<td>1 injection required if student has had 1 injection previously</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rubella IgG</strong></td>
<td><strong>$28.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$35.00</strong> per MMR injection</td>
<td>To be completed within 6 weeks of screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mumps IgG</strong></td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>2 injections over 4 to 6 weeks</td>
<td><em>(By end of semester 1, week 13)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Measles IgG</strong></td>
<td><strong>$90.00</strong></td>
<td>1 injection required if student has had 1 injection previously</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening and vaccination are not necessary for students who are able to produce serological evidence or documented record of two previous MMR vaccinations</td>
<td>Screenings are optional for students willing to receive MMR vaccination straight away</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Not Applicable*
### Vaccination Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pertussis</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>$40.00 per injection</td>
<td>1 dose of Tdap, irrespective of the interval since the last dose of tetanus or diphtheria-containing vaccine</td>
<td>To be completed before start of semester 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 required to submit all the vaccination reports and screening reports for the above [MMR, Varicella, Tdap and Hepatitis B (at least the first 2 doses)] by the end of Semester 1, Week 13. Students who fail to submit the complete vaccination records and screening reports by the stipulated deadline will not be able to participate in Longitudinal Patient Experience (LPE), which is a module requirement in PR1150. Failure to participate in LPE would translate to a fail in the module PR1150 and students would have to repeat it in their 2nd year.