Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

Vaccination and Immunisation Guidelines
Purpose
This document outlines mandatory requirements that the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (FMNHS) requires of its students, new and existing, who are enrolled in courses that require clinical placements/fieldwork as per Department of Health and Human Services Victoria or Health Network standards. It identifies individual responsibilities and accountabilities in relation to these requirements.

It is mandatory that students enrolled in FMNHS who undertake clinical placements or fieldwork as part of their degree provide evidence that they are suitably immunised against blood borne viruses.

Scope
This document advises all FMNHS students who will undertake clinical placements or fieldwork as a course requirement.

Definition of terms

Blood borne virus (BBV)
For the purpose of this document, the term blood borne virus includes human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), Varicella, Tetanus, Pertussis, Measles, Mumps and Rubella.

Exposure prone procedures (EPP)
Any procedure where there is a risk of injury to the student related to exposure of a patient’s open tissues to the blood of the student. These procedures include those where the student’s hands (whether gloved or not) 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. The nature of the EPP performed by the student can be categorised according to level of risk of transmission, in increasing order of magnitude.

Where there is uncertainty about the application of any of these defined terms refer to the Vaccination of health care workers document at http://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/resources/health-care-workers-guide.htm

Healthcare worker (HCW)
Refers to all people involved in the delivery of health services in healthcare facilities including students and laboratory staff, particularly those persons who have regular contact with patients or any contact with blood or body substances.

Health facilities
Those private and public hospitals, and other facilities where students undertake clinical placements, fieldwork or engage in delivery of health services.

Serological Testing
Laboratory tests done on blood serum to measure antibodies against antigens of the micro-organism thought to be causing the infection e.g. HBsAg
Vaccination and Testing Required
The FMNHS requires students to vaccinate and/or test for the following diseases before commencing their course of study and provide evidence of immunity as detailed in Form 1 - Immunisation Compliance form, available at the following site: http://www.med.monash.edu.au/current/immunisation/

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- Blood Borne Virus (BBV)
  - Hepatitis C antibody test
  - HIV antibody test
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella
- Varicella
- Tuberculosis (TB)
- Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis
- Influenza – Annual vaccination required

International Students
FMNHS international students attending for short-term MBBS placements or exchange are required to produce documentation prior to arrival in Australia to show that they meet the same screening and immunisation standards as domestic students. In some cases (e.g. where clinical placements begin shortly after course commencement) a conditional offer of admission in the course will be made until evidence of compliance with immunisation policy is provided.

Monash Abroad students are unable to enrol in units requiring placements.

The Faculty retains the right to require all students who are at increased risk of carrying an infectious disease to undergo further screening and/or vaccinations.

Recommended for Overseas Electives
FMNHS schools/departments have a responsibility to ensure that students undertaking a period of study overseas are aware of the health risks and are advised to take appropriate precautions to reduce risks.

The provision of this information and the administration of appropriate immunisations and chemoprophylaxis are not the direct responsibility of the Faculty.

Students should be advised to attend the University Health Services, Monash Medical Centre or a specialized travel health clinic for advice.

Potential exposure to HIV in the clinical setting poses a particular risk in some settings and the clinical coordinator will work closely with students to ensure that this risk is minimised through primary prevention and post-exposure prophylaxis should that be necessary.

Student Responsibilities
FMNHS students have a duty to be aware of their immunity or infectious status to reduce the risk of placing others at risk of infection or contracting disease while delivering health and social services.
Students must comply with the immunisation and testing requirements as set out in these Guidelines.

Students are required to provide evidence of appropriate immunisation and details of their current BBV serological status to their school/department.

Students have an obligation to undergo repeat serological testing for BBVs if the student has been exposed to an increased risk of infection, whether occupational or non-occupational. If a student’s BBV status has changed, he/she is required to complete and submit a confirmation letter to their school/department.

Students who participate in exposure prone procedures, against expert medical advice, will be referred to their Course Convenor and/or Head of School.

Students are responsible for all costs associated with the immunisation program.

Students are responsible for understanding and practicing infection control practices, including standard and additional precautions, when delivering health or social services.

*It is the students’ responsibility to keep copies of all relevant serology or paperwork which is to be presented to the placement venue on request.*

**Schools and departments will not provide copies of this documentation at a later date.**

**School/Department Responsibilities**

Provide students with access to the FMNHS’ Vaccination and Immunisation Guidelines (this document).

Students acknowledge their understanding and acceptance of these Guidelines at the time of accepting the course offer and complete enrolment.

Schools/departments expect all students requiring immunisation as a course requirement to have completed all immunisations as soon as practicable. Those not up to date or unable to provide proof of appropriate immunity will not be allowed to undertake related units of study or to progress through the program. This may have unsatisfactory professional behaviour and academic progress implications. See [http://www.med.monash.edu.au/policies/](http://www.med.monash.edu.au/policies/)

The Faculty, Schools and Departments are responsible for liaising with the Deputy Dean Education and the Chair of the Clinical Placements Committee who is the Associate Dean Learning and Teaching to ensure that FMNHS students have the appropriate immunisation as a course requirement and adhere to these Guidelines.

Any data collected from service providers including the University Health Service will be stored in a secure manner as per the University Privacy Policy. The student must provide evidence of compliance with immunisation policies using forms available at: [http://www.med.monash.edu.au/current/immunisation/](http://www.med.monash.edu.au/current/immunisation/)

Academic, personal and career counselling will be made available to students with infectious diseases and blood-borne viruses, at their request. This is available from infectious disease specialists. Referral to specialists can be obtained from the University Health Service.
Requirements

Responsibilities of the HBV/HCV/HIV infected student (students who are not infected with HBV/HCV/HIV, must still read and understand the following)

The infected student, like all healthcare workers must strictly adhere to standard infection control precautions.

Students who are HBV/HCV/HIV positive, as defined below, must advise their supervisor of their status if they are, or have been, performing exposure prone procedures, or if it is likely that they will be called upon to perform exposure prone procedures in their current position. Please note that as a student working in a healthcare environment, it is assumed you will be undertaking exposure prone procedures.

Religious Holiday Observance

The Faculty follows the Monash Strict Religious Observances Guidelines which can be found at: http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/management/student-comm-serv/equity-diversity/strict-religious-observance-guidelines.pdf However, where a student misses clinical placement days due to strict religious observance of religious holidays the time lost must be made up.

Students requiring assistance due to clinical placements clashing with strict observation of specific religious holiday dates will need to notify the clinical co-ordinator of their religious holiday commitments (located at the following link http://monash.edu/social-justice/cultural-calendar/index)

Students seeking consideration are required to provide documentary evidence confirming their strict religious observance obligations in support of a request. (See the Social Justice Unit for confirmation of the most appropriate form of documentary evidence to be provided).

All related documents can be found on the faculty immunisation website:

http://www.med.monash.edu.au/current/immunisation/