

Faculty of Health: Importance of Vaccination

WHY VACCINATIONS ARE “MEDICALLY” IMPORTANT FOR STUDENTS WHO UNDERTAKE CLINICAL PLACEMENT

Transmission of vaccine preventable disease in healthcare settings has the potential to cause serious illness and avoidable death in patients, staff, students, and the community. Health care workers have a “duty of care” to ensure that they minimise the risk to their clients of acquiring a vaccine preventable disease, especially as their clients may already be at an increased risk of serious illness and death due to compromised health status or immunosuppression¹.

Similarly, employers of health care workers have occupational health & safety obligations, and a duty of care to protect their employees by ensuring that they are protected from vaccine preventable disease.

Vaccination is a relatively effective and safe method of preventing certain diseases, and the currently used vaccines have been well studied and tested. While no vaccine is 100% effective, vaccination is a worthwhile method of minimising risk to both health care workers and patients. **This means completing a full schedule for a vaccination according to its specified timeframe to ensure the best outcome for protection and longevity of that protection.**

Currently, most health care employers will insist on immunisation of their workforce to discharge their duty of care to their employees and their patients. As such, healthcare facilities in Australia require that all healthcare workers (including students) are immunised against or have evidence of immunity to certain vaccine preventable diseases in order to participate in clinical placement activities.

Therefore, prior to clinical placement for health-based courses offered by the University of Canberra, you are required to undertake immunisations against important vaccine preventable disease such as Hepatitis B; Measles, Mumps & Rubella; Varicella; Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (Whooping Cough) and Influenza (recommended), so that you are compliant with requirements for clinical placement in healthcare facilities. To assist in this process, the [UC Medical & Counselling Centre](#) will be offering immunisation clinics throughout the Semester. All required vaccines (except TB) will be available at cost price. Students can book into these sessions online or by enquiring at UC Medical & Counselling Centre (02 6201 2351).

Completed vaccination documents should be submitted electronically via [InPlace](#).

For more information, please see the latest edition of the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#).

¹ Information prepared by the University of Canberra, Medical and Counselling Centre.