

Immunisation Policy for Health & Social Care Courses

Section 1: Purpose and Scope

1. All students on professional health and social care courses must meet immunisation requirements to protect students, patients, and others from serious communicable diseases. This is in line with guidance from the Department of Health (DoH), Higher Education Occupational Practitioners (HEOPs), and professional bodies such as the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and Social Work England (SWE).
2. Sheffield Occupational Health Service (SOHS) manages immunisations and blood tests for all applicants/students except those on Degree Apprenticeships.
3. Degree Apprenticeship learners are out of scope of this policy as the University is not responsible for immunisations for these courses. Employers of Degree Apprentices are expected to confirm to the University that their learners are vaccinated appropriately in line with Chapter 12 (Immunisation of healthcare and laboratory staff) of the Green Book. This guidance is published by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and contains the latest advice and information on vaccines and vaccination procedures for vaccine-preventable infectious diseases in the UK.
4. Students on the Working with Children, Young People and Families course are out of scope of this policy as the placement settings do not require immunisations.

Section 2: Immunisation Requirements

5. The following table outlines the immunisations required dependant on the course studied. These should normally be completed **6 weeks prior to the first placement block**. Consequences of non-compliance with this timeframe are outlined in section 3.

Course	Immunisation requirement
Exposure Prone Procedures (EPP) Health courses; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Midwifery• Operating Department Practice• Paramedic Science• Physician Associate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 Hepatitis B vaccines and blood test confirming immunity• 2 MMR vaccines or blood test confirming immunity• 2 Varicella vaccines or blood test showing chickenpox immunity• TB Blood test (QuantiFERON) or evidence of BCG vaccine• Blood test for Hepatitis C and HIV• 1 Pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine or blood test <p>This will take a minimum of 16 weeks if all appointments are attended when booked. This is dependent on vaccine history and whether records have been provided, appointment availability, vaccine availability and student engagement.</p>
Non-EPP Health courses including BSc Learning Disability (Nursing) and Social Work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 Hepatitis B vaccines and blood test confirming immunity• 2 MMR vaccines or blood test confirming immunity• 2 Varicella vaccines or blood test showing chickenpox immunity• TB Blood test (QuantiFERON) or evidence of BCG vaccine <p>Additionally for students on Child Nursing courses, the following is required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine or blood test

	<p>This will take a minimum of 4 weeks if all appointments are attended when booked. This is dependent on vaccine history and whether records have been provided, appointment availability, vaccine availability and student engagement.</p> <p>A third Hepatitis B vaccine and blood test confirming immunity is required prior to progressing to Level 5 but will not prevent students from attending placement in Level 4.</p>
<p>BSc and MSW Social Work courses</p> <p>MA Art Psychotherapy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Hepatitis B vaccines and blood test confirming immunity • 2 MMR vaccines or blood test confirming immunity • 2 Varicella vaccines or blood test showing chickenpox immunity • TB Blood test (QuantiFERON) or evidence of BCG vaccine <p>This will take a minimum of 4 weeks if all appointments are attended when booked. This is dependent on vaccine history and whether records have been provided, appointment availability, and student engagement.</p> <p>Additional vaccines are available if students choose to continue to the level of immunisation of other health courses.</p>

Section 3: Consequences of Non-Compliance

- Students who do not meet immunisation requirements **6 weeks before a placement will not be able to attend the placement for that block** and placement may be deferred to a later reassessment period or the next academic year. This can delay progression and affect funding.
- Placement availability is not within the University's control, and placement providers may be unable to accommodate extraordinary placement requests caused by non-compliance. This may further delay the next opportunity to retrieve missed placements. However, the University will make reasonable efforts to secure further placements.
- Students remain responsible for ensuring they meet immunisation requirements at the earliest opportunity. Students should normally meet this responsibility before further placement requests are made to placement providers. The University reserves the right to request this of students who do not meet minimum immunisation requirements.
- Students that do not meet immunisation requirements cannot normally **progress to Level 5** and may be **withdrawn from the course**.
- In certain circumstances, such as pregnancy or not achieving immunity, students may be unable to complete the required immunisations within the specified timeframe despite attending and engaging as required. These situations will be risk assessed, reviewed and considered on a case-by-case basis.

Section 4: Immunisation schedule and appointments

- Appointments should be **prioritised** over teaching and other commitments.

12. Missing or rescheduling appointments can delay placement and progression. After missing two appointments, SOHS will not rebook until the applicant/student engages with the Student, Policy, Casework and Compliance Team to explain the situation. **If applicants/students cannot attend or need to discuss vaccination history or needle phobia** then they must contact SOHS directly at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled appointments.

IMMUNISATION SCHEDULE			
APPOINTMENT 1 WEEK 0	APPOINTMENT 2 WEEK 4	APPOINTMENT 3 WEEK 8	APPOINTMENT 4 WEEK 16
MMR Vaccine 1 Hep B Vaccine 1 Blood test for chickenpox immunity TB Blood test (QuantiFERON) 1 Pertussis (whooping cough) for EPP and Child Nursing courses only Blood tests for Hep C and HIV for EPP courses only	MMR Vaccine 2 Hep B Vaccine 2 Varicella Vaccine 1 (if no chickenpox immunity) TB Vaccine (if required)	Hep B Vaccine 3 Varicella Vaccine 2 (if required)	Blood test for Hep B immunity (Serology)
	Note: students on non EPP courses with Chickenpox immunity can now attend placement but are not yet cleared to progress to Level 5, unless on a BA or MSW Social Work course. Those without chickenpox immunity need a further varicella vaccine.	Note: students on non EPP health courses with full varicella vaccines can now attend placement but are not yet cleared to progress to Level 5.	Note: if immune, students are fully immunised and are cleared to progress to Level 5 and students on EPP courses can now attend placement. If the required Hep B immunity is not reached, another full course (x3) of Hep B vaccinations will be required.