

## MEMORANDUM

Date: July 15, 2024

To: Applicants of Dalhousie University, Faculty of Dentistry and School of Dental Hygiene

From: Dr. T. Wright, Assistant Dean, Clinical Affairs

Re: Immunization / CPR Requirements

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The Faculty of Dentistry is committed to protecting and maintaining the rights of patients and healthcare workers and the integrity of the educational process of dental professionals. All programs in the Faculty of Dentistry and the School of Dental Hygiene require students to provide direct patient care. A Policy on Students and Student Applicants with Infectious Diseases has been implemented. A copy can be viewed on the Faculty of Dentistry website ([www.dentistry.dal.ca](http://www.dentistry.dal.ca)).

Acceptance into all programs within the Faculty of Dentistry and the School of Dental Hygiene is conditional upon receipt of a completed Immunization/CPR Record, indicating compliance with the Faculty of Dentistry Policy on Students and Student Applicants with Infectious Diseases. First year students are required to have this documentation completed prior to entering Faculty of Dentistry and School of Dental Hygiene programs. Unless this requirement is met, students will be unable to attend lectures, preclinical exercises, or clinics in the Faculty of Dentistry. Any delay in starting attendance is significant due to the heavy workload in these programs.

The Immunization/CPR Record must provide evidence of the following completed immunizations and demonstrated immunity.

1. Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Td//TdaP)

Document most recent dose of diphtheria/tetanus (Td) or diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (TdaP) within the last 10 years.

2. Polio (IPV)

Document proof of childhood immunizations or adult primary series of poliovirus vaccine (at least 3 doses).

### 3. Rubella (German measles)

Document 2 doses of vaccine after age 12 months or antibody titer results (blood test) indicating immunity.

### 4. Rubeola (Measles)

Document 2 doses of vaccine after age 12 months or antibody titer results (blood test) indicating immunity.

### 5. Mumps

Document 2 doses of vaccine after age 12 months or antibody titre results (blood test) indicating immunity.

### 6. Varicella (Chicken Pox)

Document 2 doses of vaccine or provide evidence of immunity. Evidence of immunity includes a history of varicella or herpes zoster based on physician diagnosis, laboratory evidence of immunity, or laboratory confirmation of the disease.

### 7. Hepatitis B or A/B

**Note:** The Hepatitis B or A/B series normally takes 4 to 6 months to complete. If you have not had the vaccine, you should begin the process immediately to comply with this requirement.

Document 3 doses of the vaccine as well as antibody titre results (blood test) indicating immunity. In Nova Scotia, an antibody titre of 12 IU/L or greater confirms immunity.

Applicants born or previously residing in intermediate or high HBV countries (see Appendix A) must be tested for both HBcAb and HBsAg to fully define HBV status prior to acceptance into the program.

If immunity is not acquired with the initial series of the vaccine, a second course of 3 doses should be initiated. A month after the first booster dose of Hepatitis B is administered, the student's antibody titer should be tested for a response. If the student has not acquired immunity after on booster vaccine, the series of 3 must be completed.

**If post-HB vaccination antibody titer results have not been completed or results indicate “non-immune” at the time of acceptance, the applicant must, at a minimum, provide blood results for the Hepatitis B Surface Antigen before acceptance into the program.**

Any student who has not developed immunity must sign a waiver agreeing to serological testing and receive further immunizations as appropriate.

Applicants whose immunization results indicate that they are HBsAg positive and have a viral load  $>10^3$  IU/ml ( $5 \times 10^3$  GE/ml) will not be accepted into the program. Dalhousie University will reassess eligibility for admission should the applicant's status change.

Students who become HBsAg positive or those whose viral load exceeds  $10^3$  IU/ml ( $5 \times 10^3$  GE/ml) during their studies will be removed from patient care activities. Such modification of the clinical program could prevent a student from meeting graduation requirements. Students who undergo medical management of hepatitis B and can demonstrate a consistent viral load below the above cut-off may resume patient care activities and continue in the program.

#### 8. PD (Tuberculosis Screening)

Students are required to provide proof of a 2-Step Mantoux test prior to beginning their program. This skin test involves placement of a purified protein derivative (PPD) to screen for tuberculosis. It must be read 48-72 hours after placement and the area of induration recorded. For Step 2, the same process is repeated a minimum of 1 week after the first test and a maximum of 1 year after. Performing both steps within a shorter time frame produces a more reliable result.

If students do not have documentation of a two-step Mantoux test, they must have both steps completed prior to the start of their program.

Students who have a documented 2-Step Mantoux test previously are required to have an annual TB test within the last year.

Students who have had a positive Mantoux test must receive follow-up care and include a copy of the treatment results (e.g., medications or chest X-ray results).

#### 9. Influenza

Annual influenza vaccination is recommended.

10. CPR-HCP Certification

A copy of certification in CPR (Level HCP) must accompany the Immunization/CPR Record. Certification is valid if obtained within the 12-month period preceding the start of the program. Annual renewal is required.

	CPR-A	CPR-B	CPR-C	CPR-HCP
Hours Of Instruction	4	5	5	6
AED *	✓	✓	✓	✓
CPR for Adults	✓	✓	✓	✓
CPR for Children		✓	✓	✓
CPR for Infants		✓	✓	✓
Adult/Child Two Person CPR				✓
Infant Two Person CPR				✓
Rescue Breathing				✓
Bag Valve Mask				✓
Recertification Available			✓	✓

*\*AED training is included when regulations permit.*

Take the Immunization/CPR Record to your health care provider to complete.

A healthcare provider is defined as a physician, nurse practitioner, physician’s assistant, or registered nurse.

If the information is coming from multiple providers, use a separate Immunization/CPR Record for each provider.

Do not forward your completed Immunization/CPR Record until you have received notification of your acceptance into one of the Faculty of Dentistry programs.

Submitting the Immunization/CPR Record does not indicate that you are in compliance with the requirements.

A review and verification of the Immunization/CPR Record will be conducted, and students will be advised of deficiencies.

*Note: The cost of immunizations and tests are the sole responsibility of the applicant*

## APPENDIX A

List of countries by prevalence of chronic Hepatitis B virus infection among adults:

**Intermediate and High ( $\geq 5\%$ ):** Albania, Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China's Mainland, Comoros, Congo, Republic of the Côte d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Kiribati, Korea, Democratic People's Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia, Federated States of Moldova, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Syria, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Zimbabwe

**Low ( $\leq 1\%$ ):** Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Palestine, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela

Reference <https://cdafound.org/polaris-countries-distribution/>, retrieved on July 9, 2024.