

## MEMORANDUM

Date: June 30, 2025

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

From: Dr. T. Wright, Associate 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 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 titre results (blood test) indicating immunity.

4. **Rubeola (Measles)**

Document 2 doses of vaccine after age 12 months or antibody titre 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 mIU/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 titre 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 titre 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. PPD (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 with documented 2-Step Mantoux testing are required to submit documentation of the 2-step test. If it has been greater than 12 months since the 2-step testing was performed, and the results were negative, then an annual TB test is also required and must be within the last 12 months.

Students who test positive to the 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. Annual Influenza vaccinations are available each fall. Dalhousie Health Services on campus can be accessed by Dalhousie students for vaccinations if needed.

#### **10. CPR/AED Certification**

Certification is valid if obtained within the 12-month period preceding the start of the program. All students are required to complete a CPR course designed for Health Care Providers. CPR training is essential and must meet specific content requirements. Please note that courses by the various training providers that cover the same content can have a different name. Common names CPR-HCP (Health Care Providers), BLS-HCP (Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers) and Professional Rescuer CPR. Regardless of the class title, it must include the following components:

- CPR for infants, children, and adults
- Two-rescuer CPR techniques

- Use of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator)
- Use of a Bag Valve Mask (BVM)

**Important: The course must be completed fully in person (online or hybrid courses are not accepted).**

Certification is valid for 1 year from the date of issue (even if your card says longer). Annual renewal is required to maintain eligibility. Please ensure your CPR meets these standards and plan annual renewal accordingly. If you have any questions about acceptable courses, please confirm the course content with the course provider before enrolling. A copy of certification in CPR must accompany the Immunization/CPR Form. Thank you for your attention to this requirement.

Note. CPR-HCP is the abbreviation for CPR for Health care providers.

	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.*

### Instructions:

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 comes from multiple providers, use a separate Immunization/CPR Form for each provider for signature purposes


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

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

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

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

**Immunization:**

- i. Thoroughly review the  [Admissions Immunizations Memo TW.pdf](#) included in your admissions package.
- ii. Complete the Faculty of Dentistry Immunization Form (2 pages) and be sure to sign and date the section on page 2.
- iii. Make copies of antibody titres for Hepatitis B and any other serology needed to meet the requirements. **It is the student applicant's responsibility to submit both the completed Immunization Form and the supporting documents.**
- iv. Send a copy to the Clinic RN Tanya Aquino at [tanya.aquino@dal.ca](mailto:tanya.aquino@dal.ca). ***If you have not already done this, please do so immediately.*** If you have urgent questions about immunizations or CPR, call Tanya 902-494-1673

**Note:** Students with incomplete or missing documentation **will not be permitted to attend pre-clinical labs that start the week of Sept 2** and may be delayed or ineligible for clinical placements. It is the student's responsibility to take timely action and ensure all requirements are met well in advance.

This is a reminder that **immunization and CPR requirements are mandatory** for participation in clinical placements. As completion of these requirements can take several months, prompt action is essential.

Please ensure you review and meet the following requirements:

**1. Polio and Tdap Vaccination**

- Students must provide documentation of previous vaccination.
- Those without documentation must arrange to receive the necessary dose(s) immediately.

**2. 2-Step TB (Tuberculosis) Testing**

- Documentation of completed 2-step TB testing is required.
- If unavailable, students must arrange to complete the testing prior to placement.
- **If it has been more than one year since the 2-step testing was performed, an annual TB test is required.**

**3. Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) and Varicella**

- One of the following must be submitted for each:
  - Evidence of immunity (positive serologic test), or
  - Documentation of the required vaccine doses, including dates in DD/MM/YY format.

**4. Hepatitis B**

- Students must submit:
  - Documentation of a complete vaccine series (3 doses), and
  - Evidence of immunity (anti-HBs  $\geq 12$  mIU/mL).
  - If immunity is low or absent, the minimum requirement is testing for HBsAg.

## 5. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification

- Proof of current CPR certification at the healthcare provider level is required prior to placement. Ensure the required content is covered in the CPR course (See section 10 on page 3)

**Note:** Students with incomplete or missing documentation **will not be permitted to attend pre-clinical labs that start the week of Sept 2** and may be delayed or ineligible for clinical placements. It is the student's responsibility to take timely action and ensure all requirements are met well in advance.

**Please contact the Clinic RN if you have any questions or need guidance.**

## 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.