

MEMORANDUM

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

From: Dr. B. Cleghorn
Assistant Dean, Clinics & Building Services

Re: Immunization/CPR Requirements

The Faculty of Dentistry is committed to protecting and maintaining the rights of patients and health care 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).

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 expected to have this requirement completed prior to entering Faculty of Dentistry and School of Dental Hygiene programs.

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

DOCUMENTED TESTS AND IMMUNIZATIONS

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 last dose of primary course of poliovirus vaccine. Adults (>18 years) who have completed the primary series of IPV or OPV do not require a booster.
3. German Measles (Rubella)
Document 2 doses of vaccine after age 12 months or antibody titre results (blood test) indicating immunity.

4. Measles (Rubeola)
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 the 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 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.
It is possible to receive the Hepatitis A/B vaccine series more quickly. The Twinrix vaccine can be provided at an accelerated schedule within 21 days, followed by a booster 12 months later.

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

If immunity is not acquired with the initial series of the vaccine, a second course of 3 doses should be administered. One month following the last injection, the antibody titres should be tested for a response.

If post-HB vaccination antibody test results have not been completed at the time of acceptance, at a minimum, the applicant must provide blood test 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 $>10^3$ genome equivalents/ml will not be accepted into the program. Dalhousie University will reassess eligibility for admission should the applicant's status change.

Students who become HBeAg positive or those whose viral load exceeds 10^3 genome equivalents/ml during the course of their studies will be removed from patient care activities. Such modification of the clinical program could prevent a student from meeting graduation requirements.

8. PPD (Tuberculosis Screening)

Students are required to receive 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. **A second PPD test is required 1 - 4 weeks after the first test.**

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

9. Influenza

Document proof of most recent annual influenza inoculation.

10. CPR/AED Certification

A copy of certification in CPR (Level C) including the use of an Automatic External Defibrillator, must accompany the Immunization/CPR Record. Certification is valid if obtained within the past 12 months.

PROCESS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN DOCUMENTATION

- Take the Immunization/CPR Record, which follows, to your health care provider to complete. A health care provider is defined as a physician, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, and registered nurse.

If the information is coming from multiple providers, use a separate Immunization/CPR Record for each provider. Additional copies can be printed from the Faculty of Dentistry website.

Some students may have difficulty finding their medical records; in these cases, an antibody titre (blood test) must be drawn to document immunity.

- 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.