

 <b>DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY</b> FACULTY OF MEDICINE  <b>Regulations for Immunizations</b>	<b>Policy sponsor:</b> Associate Deans, UGME	<b>Approval date:</b> 2016
	<b>Responsible units:</b> Admissions; Student Affairs; UGME	<b>Amendments:</b> UMECC: March 28, 2024 Faculty Council: April 2, 2024 Faculty Council: June 25, 2024

**A. Background & Purpose**

To protect the health and safety of faculty, learners, patients, and staff, it is important that medical students have immunizations that are up-to-date and meet the requirements of the local health authorities.

**B. Application**

This policy applies to all students within the Faculty of Medicine undergraduate medical education program, including entering, returning, and visiting elective students.

**C. Definitions**

**Enrolled student** is any student actively registered and participating in the program.

**Entering students** refers to those admitted to the undergraduate medicine program.

**IGRA, the interferon gamma release assay** is a blood test used to see whether a person has been infected with the tuberculosis (TB) bacteria. The IGRA test is used to diagnose TB infection, when the TB bacteria is in the body, but the person is not experiencing any symptoms suggestive of TB disease.

**One-step Mantoux test (TST)** is a diagnostic tool used to detect tuberculosis (TB) infection. It involves injecting a small amount of purified protein derivative (PPD) into the skin of your forearm and then checking for a reaction after 48-72 hours. If you have been exposed to TB, your immune system will react to the PPD, causing a raised, red bump to appear at the injection site.

**Returning students** are students returning to years 2, 3, 4, or 5, or those repeating year.

**Visiting elective student** refers to any student working in a Dalhousie-affiliated clinical setting for a clerkship elective who is registered in an M.D. Program at another medical school

#### D. Policy

Students are required to be fully immunized before they enter any clinical setting. Proof of immunity is required for all persons carrying on activity in hospitals and clinical settings. The immunization record with instructions is available online [here](#).

All registered students with Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine must comply with these requirements and continue to provide updates to their immunization profile. Failure to do so will result in **not being permitted to participate in clinical activities**, therefore causing delays in their education.

#### E. Administrative Structure

Immunization records are maintained and monitored by the Student Affairs office.

The Admissions Office maintains the site where the immunization form template is kept and informs entering students of the requirements.

Student Affairs assists students with questions regarding their immunization.

#### F. Procedures

- **Entering students** must submit a completed [Immunization record](#) to the Student Affairs office before the last Friday in July each year.
- Incoming Med 1 students must present proof of having had a two-step TB test; if this was done greater than 12 months before the start of the Med 1 academic year, students must present an updated one-step TB test (or an IGRA if skin test contraindicated) by July 15.
- Subsequent TB testing is not required by Dalhousie.
- Med 3 students may need to present proof of a current one-step test results with an away elective application to certain medical schools for Med 4 through the AFMC portal and so may require repeat testing for this purpose.
- If a student's clinical situation or exposure warrants retesting at any stage in undergraduate training, this is to be done at the discretion of the care provider and reported to Student Affairs if positive.
- For all **enrolled students**, documentation of influenza immunization must be submitted annually by the last Friday in November.
- If a Dalhousie medical student tests positive on skin testing or IGRA, Chest X-ray results must also be submitted and the student must inform the Assistant Dean, Student Affairs. All students will be offered the opportunity to be referred by the Assistant Dean, Student Affairs for a timely consultation appointment with the Infectious Disease Specialist who consults for the Faculty of Medicine. The student may also seek follow-up from their own Primary Care Practitioner (PCP) to seek a referral to the Infectious Disease (ID) specialist.

A student may be directed to a site or campus-specific health resource if the student does not have a Primary Care Practitioner. The student would be asked to provide documentation of any risk-mitigation treatment or measures after the appointment with their PCP or ID Specialist.

- **Visiting elective students** must fulfill the immunization requirements set by the [Association of the Faculties of Medicine of Canada](#) and complete the [AFMC Immunization form](#). The UGME office will provide timelines at which to apply and submit the form.