

Communicable Disease Screening Protocol

Hepatitis B

Students who are infected with Hepatitis B will undergo an assessment of their potential to transmit Hepatitis B. This assessment could restrict or modify your participation in some aspects of the curriculum.

The vaccination against Hepatitis B consists of a series of 3 doses. The second dose should be administered one month after 1st and the 3rd should be administered 6 months following the 1st. Testing for the surface antibody to Hepatitis B (anti-HBs) should be done at least one month after the vaccine series is completed. Applicants to the school who have not been previously vaccinated against Hepatitis B should begin this vaccination process no later than the February 1st prior to possible registration.

Students who have been vaccinated against Hepatitis B must provide the vaccination dates on the Communicable Disease Screening form and the results of their surface antibody level (anti-HBs) to Hepatitis B.

If the result of the surface antibody test to Hepatitis B is negative (anti-HBs), a Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) test is required within the previous 3 months of completing the form. If the Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) test is negative, the student must begin a second Hepatitis B vaccine series (Twinrix product preferred) and repeat Hepatitis B surface antibody test (anti-HBs).

Non-responders to the 2nd round will repeat the HBsAg test and provide a 3rd round of vaccination with intradermal vaccine.

If the student continues to be non-immune after a third series of Hepatitis B vaccine described above they will be considered to be “non-responders” and will be referred to the Director, Student Affairs, an appropriate specialist, and for career counseling.

If the result of any Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) test is positive, the student will be referred to the Director, Student Affairs. They will also need HBeAg, anti-HBe, and Hepatitis B DNA levels.

Tuberculosis

Previous positive Tuberculin Skin Test (TST): If the student has a documented history of a previous positive TST (induration measuring equal to or greater than 10 mm), a repeat TST is not required. Proceed instead to have chest Xray.

- All other students are required to provide documentation of a 2-step TST upon entry to medical school.
- If a previous 2-step TST has been documented within the past 12 months students are only required to provide documentation of a single step TST.

- A single step TST is required annually, beginning in the second year and for the duration of the MD program.
 - TST's should be completed between June 1 and September 1 annually.
 - If the results of either the initial 2-step TST or single step TST are positive (due to BCG vaccine or any other cause) the student must supply the results of a chest x-ray taken within the last 3 months.
 - Students with a positive TST will be referred for counseling with the Director, Student Affairs and for appropriate medical assessment.
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Influenza

Each student is required to obtain an annual influenza immunization. The Ontario government provides the influenza vaccine free to all citizens during the flu season. This immunization must be received by December 1st each academic year and documentation forwarded to the UGME Office by the student.

Students will be required to follow Public Health guidelines put forward for Health Care Professionals.

Students who have not been immunized may be suspended from participating in clinical activities. Students who have a contraindication to receiving the influenza vaccine must so inform the UGME Office upon enrollment and will be referred to the Director, Student Affairs.

Measles/Mumps/Rubella

Students are required to provide evidence of two doses of measles vaccine and one dose of mumps and of rubella vaccine. Where this documentation is not available, evidence of immunity by laboratory testing must be provided.

Tetanus /Diphtheria

Immunization against tetanus and diphtheria is effective for approximately ten years from the date of immunization. Students must provide proof of receipt of a primary series of vaccines or booster received within the last 10 years.

Students are responsible for ensuring that these boosters to tetanus and diphtheria remain up to date after medical school admittance.

Polio

Students are required to provide documentation of having received a complete primary series of polio vaccine. A complete series consists of 5 doses for children up to 6 years of age or 3 doses after age 7. For those students where proof of vaccination is unobtainable but they are certain of having received these vaccinations, they may submit documentation from their parents or a health practitioner who can attest to this.

Varicella (Chicken Pox)

Students are required to provide their serological status of immunity to chickenpox. If the student is non-immune to varicella, they must receive immunization and submit this documentation. Non-immune students who have a contraindication to receiving the varicella vaccine must so inform the UGME Office upon enrollment and will be referred to the Director, Student Affairs.

Pertussis

Students should be aware that the acellular pertussis vaccine is not publicly funded in Ontario and therefore is currently not mandatory. However, other universities may require this vaccination and within the next two years we will expect students to receive one dose of acellular pertussis-containing vaccine. This vaccine is highly recommended to prevent spread of pertussis as adults are frequent carriers of this bacteria.

HIV and Hepatitis C

The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) states that "All physicians performing exposure-prone procedures are ethically obligated to know their personal serologic status with regards to HBV, HIV and HCV. Physicians should know their status for their own health and to prevent exposing patients to unacceptable risks. Periodic testing is smart medicine."*

Hepatitis C

Students must provide documentation of their Hepatitis C serology within the last 3 months at the time of completing the Communicable Disease Screening form.

HIV

Students must provide documentation of their HIV serology within the last 3 months at the time of completing the Communicable Disease Screening form.

***Exposure Prone Procedures from the Public Health Agency of Canada:**

*"...exposure-prone procedures" is used for the purpose of managing the risk of bloodborne pathogens transmitted in Canada. They are procedures during which transmission of HBV, HCV or HIV from a HCW [health care worker] to patients is most likely to occur and includes the following:
digital palpation of a needle tip in a body cavity (a hollow space within the body or one of its organs) or the simultaneous presence of the HCW's fingers and a needle or other sharp instrument or object in a blind or highly confined anatomic site, e.g. during major abdominal, cardiothoracic, vaginal and/or orthopedic operations, or repair of major traumatic injuries, or major cutting or removal of any oral or perioral tissue, including tooth structures."*