

MD Program

Immunization and Communicable Disease Policy

Student Conduct Component: Policy #SC-03 v3

Supersedes: none

Lead Writer: Immunization and Communicable Disease Screening Committee

Approved by MD PEC: March 5, 2014

Approved by SOMAC: October 21, 2014

Revisions: December 18, 2008 v1
September 1, 2013 v2
July 27, 2022 v3



Whereas, the School of Medicine:

- is committed to ensure the safety of patients and volunteers who agree to participate in the education of our students;
- recognizes our students are novice members of the medical profession whose education and behaviour should emulate that of practicing physicians;
- promotes high standards of professionalism and dedication to patient care;
- recognizes and supports the requirement of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario that physicians monitor their communicable disease status and modify their activities appropriately;
- is committed to practices that ensure our students are aware of medical issues that could impact their personal health and career choices;
- is committed to providing all reasonable educational accommodations as may be necessary and are consistent with the pedagogic requirements of our program

The following practice will be undertaken:

1. Students are required to submit evidence of their status with respect to immunization and possible infection (as outlined in the "Communicable Disease Screening Protocol", in accordance with the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) Communicable Disease Surveillance Protocols and in accordance with COFM guidelines), at entry and prior to beginning their clinical clerkship.

2. Submitted documents will be reviewed in a confidential manner by the Communicable Disease Advisory Group, in conjunction with an Occupational Health, Safety and Infection Control consultant.
3. For students who are not fully immunized, who may be infectious, or those who choose not to submit evidence, the committee will review and make recommendations for the purposes of:
 - a. Ensuring the health of the student
 - b. Counselling the student as to appropriate career choices
 - c. Ensuring patient and volunteer safety
4. Such recommendations may include any or all of the following:
 - a. Recommendations regarding medical care and follow up for the student
 - b. Provision of appropriate counselling and support
 - c. Curricular accommodations designed to allow the student to participate without posing risk to patients or volunteers
5. Although every reasonable attempt will be made to accommodate students with known blood borne pathogens or unknown status, it cannot be assumed that successful completion of all aspects of the curriculum will be possible in every case.
6. All current students and potential applicants to our school will be made aware of this policy through publication on our website, calendar and application literature.