

## **Practice Education Immunization Requirements Frequently Asked Questions**

### **I can't find evidence of my vaccine history. How can I prove my immunity?**

Book an appointment with your physician or health care representative. Serology testing can be done to measure antibodies or antigens, and is accepted by JIBC as proof of immunity. If your serology test indicates low levels of immunity, additional vaccination is required.

### **I have completed the series of vaccines for Hepatitis B. Do I need to have my serology tested?**

Yes, post-immunization serology is required. If your antibodies are shown to be low upon serology testing, you will be required to provide evidence of having a Hepatitis B booster.

### **When can I get my TB skin test?**

Upon acceptance into the program, you will be provided with details on when to have the TB skin test. This is to ensure your results are valid at the time of your first practice education placement. Do not have the test or submit results earlier than notified as they will expire.

Your TB skin test must be read by a trained professional 48 - 72 hours after administration. Be ready to attend two appointments for this test.

Live virus vaccines (TDP, Polio, MMR, and Varicella vaccines) may interfere with the TB skin test response and produce a false negative response. For this reason, TB skin testing should be delayed at least 4 weeks following date of immunization with a live vaccine.

For individuals with a positive skin test, a chest X-ray providing clearance for active TB is required.

### **What do I need to know about the flu (influenza) vaccination?**

In 2012, health authorities in BC adopted a policy requiring all employees, students, physicians, residents, contractors, vendors and volunteers to get immunized or to wear a mask during influenza season when in a patient care area.

A patient care area is defined as an area within a health care facility and also includes any other location where care is provided, such as home and community care locations, including a client's home, inside an ambulance or on the street.

Flu season generally occurs during the fall, winter and early spring. In BC, the vaccine is usually available starting in mid-October and students must be vaccinated annually.

### **Where can I find out more about the BC Health Authority Immunization requirements?**

The Practice Education Guidelines for BC (Immunization) can be found on the Health Services Placement network (HSPnet) webpage at <https://hspscanada.net/features/>.