

Vaccination requirements

For student placements in Queensland Health

1 July 2016

From 1 July 2016, a change to Queensland Health policy will require students placed in certain areas to provide evidence they have been vaccinated for the vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) of measles, mumps, rubella, varicella and pertussis.

Who does the policy apply to?

Employees, contractors, students and volunteers to be engaged in roles where there is contact that would allow transmission of a VPD via respiratory means.

What is the policy change?

Prior to engagement new students need to provide:

- evidence of vaccination for the diseases measles, mumps, rubella, varicella and pertussis or
- evidence they are not susceptible to these diseases.

It will also be a condition of ongoing placement to supply evidence of follow up vaccinations and boosters for these diseases.

The current requirement in relation to hepatitis B has not changed.

What do you need to do?

Before a student starts with Queensland Health they will be required to provide evidence of vaccinations (or non-susceptibility) for these diseases to their education provider. This is a step of the orientation process.

Are you impacted?

Students placed in Queensland Health prior to 1 July 2016 will not be affected.

New students placed on or after 1 July 2016, who may be engaged in an area where there is contact that would allow transmission of these diseases via respiratory means, will be subject to the policy.

The policy requirement will be included in any new student deed created on or after 1 July 2016.

Placements after 1 July 2016

If a student intends to seek a placement with Queensland Health, prior to commencement of the placement, the student should check with the education provider about any requirements they may need to meet.

Students undertaking semester two (2016) placements may have completed their orientation process before 1 July 2016. Those students do not need to re-do their orientation but should take steps to meet the policy requirements as soon as possible.

Evidence

Students should check with their education provider about the process for providing evidence of vaccination or non-susceptibility to these diseases.

Where vaccination for the diseases has occurred but no evidence is available, a doctor or immunisation provider can review vaccination records or perform serology testing to provide evidence of vaccinations (this would be at the student's cost).

If evidence cannot be provided and a vaccination is required, a doctor or immunisation provider can administer vaccinations to meet the policy requirement.

Education providers may develop their own processes and procedures to collect the required evidence. However, to assist, forms outlining the necessary evidence are available on the Queensland Health website (see Forms section).

Resources

To view the HR Policy B1 *Recruitment and selection* (QH-POL-212:2014) refer to www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/policies-standards/doh-policy/

For further information on the policy and requirements please refer to: www.health.qld.gov.au/employment/work-for-us/dept-of-health/pre-employment/vaccinations

For further reading on vaccination and immunisation please refer to:

- www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/immunisation/benefits/index.html
- www.immunise.health.gov.au/

Forms

Vaccine preventable diseases evidence form – worker and *Vaccine preventable diseases evidence form – doctor* are available at www.health.qld.gov.au/employment/work-for-us/dept-of-health/pre-employment/vaccinations