
Immunizations

Q & A

Jul 2024

All health care students must be immunized according to AHS Standards.

Immunizations Recommended for Health Care Students include:

Immunizations

- Tetanus
- Diphtheria
- Acellular Pertussis
- Polio
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Hepatitis B
- Influenza
- Varicella (if needed)

Tests

- Tuberculin Skin Test (TST, Mantoux, PPD)
- Hepatitis B blood test (if needed, according to Hep B risk Assessment)
- Varicella blood test (if needed)
- Chest x-ray/Tb Clearance letter (if needed)

Q: What documents do I need to submit?

A:

- ✓ AHS Client Immunization Record (Official Immunization Record)
- ✓ Proof of Influenza/Covid Vaccination (if received)
- ✓ Tb Skin Test result in mm
- ✓ Tb Follow-up documentation (if positive/significant TST)
- ✓ Hep B Serology documentation (if applicable)
- ✓ Varicella Serology documentation (if applicable)

Q: How do I submit my documents?

A:

✓ Email to immunizations@mhc.ab.ca

Q: What are the first steps in completing these requirements?

A:

1. Contact Community Health Services to book an appointment with a Public Health Nurse
 - a) **Identify yourself as a Post-Secondary Health Care Student**
2. Email immunizations@mhc.ab.ca to indicate date of appointment
3. Request your immunization history from your provincial public health office and present your record to the Medicine Hat/Brooks public health office for review and verification

Q: What is the difference between Community Health Services and Public Health Services?

A:

- ✓ Nothing
- ✓ They are the same thing

Q: What if I was not born in Alberta/Canada

A:

1. Request your vaccination record from the province/country of origin
2. Bring any existing vaccination records to Medicine Hat Community Health Services for review and verification
3. Book an appointment with Public Health to have a **Post-Secondary Health Care Student Assessment**

Q: What if I do not have any previous immunization records?

A:

- ✓ Do not worry!
- ✓ Book an appointment with Public Health to have a **Post-Secondary Health Care Student Assessment**
- ✓ The public health nurse will instruct you about what vaccines you need

Q: What if no records of immunizations are available from my country of birth?

A:

- ✓ Do not worry!
- ✓ Book an appointment with Public Health after receiving your Alberta Health Card
- ✓ Public Health will offer and provide all required vaccinations

Q: What happens at my first appointment?

A:

- ✓ At your first appointment with the Public Health Nurse, they will complete a Post-Secondary Health Care Student Assessment
- ✓ You will be offered any outstanding vaccines
- ✓ The nurse will “plant” the Tuberculosis Skin Test (TST)
- ✓ The nurse will provide you with a lab requisition for Hep B Serology (if you’ve already had the Hep B vaccine series) and Varicella Serology (if needed)
- ✓ If a positive serology report for Varicella exists in your file, the nurse will provide a copy of that result

Q: What happens at my second appointment?

A:

- ✓ At your second appointment, the Public Health Nurse will “read” your Tuberculosis Skin Test (TST)
 - If positive/significant, the Public Health Nurse will provide a Chest x-ray requisition and a sputum collection kit
- ✓ After your second appointment, please request your **Client Immunization Record**
 - Email your **Client Immunization Record** to: immunizations@mhc.ab.ca

Q: What if my Tb Skin Test is positive (>10mm)?

A:

- ✓ Follow up by Public Health is required
- ✓ You will need to provide proper **Tb follow up documentation** from Public Health to indicate that you are clear to continue into any clinical course

Q: What is proper follow up documentation after a positive/significant TST?

A:

- ✓ It refers to a “clearance letter” from the Public Health Nurse or treating Physician stating that proper tuberculosis protocols have been completed and you are clear to attend clinical
- ✓ Please request this letter from the public health nurse if applicable

Q: How do I get Hepatitis B Serology?

A: If the public health nurse considers that you are eligible for Hep B Serology:

- ✓ The nurse will provide you with a lab requisition during your appointment
- ✓ Bring the lab requisition and your AB Health care card to the Laboratory Patient Collection Site (44 Carry Drive SE, Medicine Hat) or book an appointment to complete bloodwork
- ✓ Results can take up to 2 weeks
- ✓ Follow up with public health if you have not received your results in two weeks

Q: What is Hepatitis B Serology Documentation?

A: Proper documentation means:

✓ A letter from public health stating you have immunity (protection) against Hep B

or

✓ Laboratory result: **Antibody** to Hep B Surface Antigen (Anti-HBs) positive is greater than or equal to 10 IU/L; negative is less than 10 IU/L

Q: What do I need for Varicella?

A: You need one of the following three options:

- ✓ 2 documented doses of varicella vaccine
- ✓ Strong recollection of chickenpox disease in Canada **before 2001** and at older than 1 year of age
- ✓ Laboratory evidence of immunity (positive serology) – Documentation

Q: What is Varicella Serology Documentation?

A: Proper documentation means:

✓ A letter from public health stating you have immunity (protection) against Varicella

or

✓ Laboratory results: **Varicella IgG** serology positive / present

Q: How do I complete Varicella serology?

A: If the public health nurse considers that you are eligible for Varicella serology:

- ✓ The nurse will provide you with a lab requisition during your appointment
- ✓ Bring the lab requisition and your AB Health care card to the Laboratory Patient Collection Site (44 Carry Drive SE, Medicine Hat) or book an appointment to complete bloodwork
- ✓ Results can take up to 2 weeks
- ✓ Follow up with public health if you have not received your results in two weeks

Q: I already had a positive Vz result, but I have no records, what can I do?

A:

- ✓ If the public health nurse confirms in your personal file (Netcare) that a positive result exists, they will be able to print a Non-Given Immunization Record and give it to you
- ✓ Email this document to immunizations@mhc.ab.ca

Q: What if I am from Saskatchewan and I cannot get the dTap vaccine at 18 years of age?

A:

- ✓ Present your immunizations record to Community Health Services in Medicine Hat
- ✓ Book an appointment with a public health nurse in Alberta
- ✓ the dTap vaccine at 18 years of age is indicated for all health care students in Alberta
- ✓ the dTap vaccine at 18 years of age is provincially funded in Alberta (this means that it is free for you)

Q: What if I receive my dTap vaccine in grade 9, do I need it at 18 years again? Or is it recommended every 10 years?

A: According to Alberta Standards:

- If no documented history of one dose of **acellular pertussis vaccine as an adult**, all health care students should receive 1 dose of dTap regardless of the interval since the last dose of tetanus containing vaccine.

Q: How do I obtain my Influenza vaccine in the Spring/Summer?

A:

- Please wait until the Fall/Flu season. Influenza vaccine will be available at that time.
- Book an appointment, or walk-in to a clinic/pharmacy offering these services.
- Email proof of your influenza vaccination to immunizations@mhc.ab.ca

Q: What do I do with my Client Immunization Record?

A:

1. Email to immunizations@mhc.ab.ca after your initial appointment
2. Request an updated Immunization Record from the Public Health Nurse after each appointment
3. Email documentation to immunizations@mhc.ab.ca after each subsequent appointment
4. Remember to keep a copy for your personal records!!

Q: How can I find a Public Health Nurse in Medicine Hat?

A: Public Health Nursing is located at:

2948 Dunmore Road SE
Medicine Hat, AB
T1A 8E3

Phone: 403-502-8200

[Medicine Hat Community Health Services contact information](#)

Q: How can I find a Public Health Nurse in Brooks?

A: Public Health Nursing is located at:

440 3rd Street East
Brooks, AB
T1R 1B3

Phone: 403-501-3300

[Brooks Health Centre contact information](#)

Q: How can I find a Public Health Nurse in other parts of the Province?

A: Please go to:

<https://informalberta.ca/public/common/viewSublist.do?cartId=1014853>

This directory will help you locate a Public Health Nurse in your area

Q: What if I still have questions about vaccinations?

A:

✓ Check out our website:

- https://www.mhc.ab.ca/ProgramsandCourses/Academic-Programs/School_HCS

✓ Email specific detailed questions to:

immunizations@mhc.ab.ca