

UCL Human resources

Workplace Health

Appendix 2

**Researchers requiring an immunisation screening:**

Researchers should protect patients, colleagues and themselves by being immunised against serious communicable diseases when vaccines are available. The guidance will change over time but the recommendations are:

* Tuberculosis:

Evidence of immunity and freedom from TB disease is required. In accordance with guidelines from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) NHS workers (including medical students) who have access healthcare settings or have patient contact as part of their work will require screening for Tuberculosis (TB) before clearance can be given.

TB screening is required in order to detect if there is evidence of latent TB or active TB which will need to be medically treated to prevent the spread of infection to vulnerable and at risk groups they may have contact with.

Anybody who declares symptoms of active TB should be referred to the TB clinic for further investigations. Access to work in patient contact or a healthcare setting must be postponed until treatment has been successfully completed.

Students arriving from high risk countries, or having been in a high risk country for >3/12 in the last five years (‘high risk’ is defend as an incidence of >40 cases per 100,000 populations) will need gamma-interferon testing.

[World Health Organization (WHO) estimates of tuberculosis incidence by country (published by PHE)](https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/tb_profiles/?_inputs_&entity_type=%22country%22&lan=%22EN%22&iso2=%22AF%22)

Please refer to full tuberculosis screening policy.

* Measles & rubella:

NHS workers must be able to prove their immunity to measles and rubella. This can either be with a blood test results showing immunity (a positive IgG level) **OR** evidence of two MMR vaccinations having been given. If only one vaccination has been given at the time of assessment then an immediate booster is required (if more than a month after the first vaccination was received).

* Varicella:

Health care workers, must be able to prove their immunity to Varicella (chickenpox). If the student is from temperate climates then an oral history of infection is acceptable. If the student is from a tropical and sub-tropical climate then serological screening should be performed regardless of screening. Non-immune students must be given two Varicella vaccinations in line with the Green Book [chapter 34](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/varicella-the-green-book-chapter-34).

For reference, a tropical and sub-tropical map of the world can be seen here:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:World\_map\_indicating\_tropics\_and\_subtropics.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3AWorld_map_indicating_tropics_and_subtropics.png)

Immunocompromised students will be unable to receive live vaccinations and it may be necessary to advise your supervisor / host institution of restrictions required whilst respecting the student’s right to medical confidentiality.

Researchers requiring Hepatitis B immunisation: Please contact WH for more information.

Researchers requiring EPP screening: Please contact WH for more information.

Table: *BBV status and summary of criteria to be met for EPP clearance* (source: [*Medical and dental students: Health clearance for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV*](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1033571/Integrated_guidance_for_management_of_BBV_in_HCW_November_2021.pdf)

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