

GUIDANCE NOTE FOR APPLICANTS: TESTING FOR IMMUNITY AND INFECTION

You must protect patients, colleagues and yourself by being immunised against serious communicable diseases when vaccines are available. The [UK Department of Health guidance](#) recommends the following:

TUBERCULOSIS (TB).

Evidence of immunity and freedom from TB is required.

If you are coming from a country with a 'low' level of incidence (<40:100,000) evidence of BCG vaccination or a presence of a BCG scar, if these are not available a positive Mantoux test result or a negative Quantiferon-TB Gold test performed in the past 5 years is sufficient for enrolment. Students arriving from, or having lived in a 'high' level of incidence country, (=>40:100,000) will need a Quantiferon-TB Gold test and a chest X-ray if this is positive. You can check the TB rate in your country here:

[World Health Organization \(WHO\) estimates of tuberculosis incidence by country \(published by PHE\)](#)

Web address for the above document: <http://tinyurl.com/ltaxb2d>

BCG vaccination is not currently available in the UK to Occupational Health Departments. If you have not been previously vaccinated you will be advised on the risk factors associated with TB and any limitations on work environments that will need to be considered.

MEASLES & RUBELLA:

Students must be able to prove their immunity to measles and rubella. This can either be with blood test results showing immunity (a positive IgG level) OR documentary evidence of two MMR vaccinations having been given.

VARICELLA (Chickenpox):

Students must be able to prove their immunity to varicella (chickenpox). If you grew-up in temperate climates then an oral history of infection is acceptable. If you're from a tropical and sub-tropical climate then serological screening should be performed.

[Subtropical map](#)

Web address: <http://tinyurl.com/vzvsubtropical>

[Tropical map](#)

Web address: <http://tinyurl.com/vzvtropical>

Immunocompromised students will be unable to receive live vaccinations and it may be necessary to advise the School of restrictions required whilst respecting the student's right to medical confidentiality.

HEPATITIS C and HIV SCREENING:

As a new entrant to health care work, confidential HIV and hepatitis C screening is available upon request. Please contact the department when you commence your course to discuss.

MENINGITIS C:

All students in the UK should be vaccinated for meningitis C prior to starting their course. Your UK GP will be able to complete this for you, if you have not received this when you start the course. [Meningitis C student leaflet](#)