**Risk of infection:** Blood borne viruses include Hepatitis B virus (HBV), Hepatitis C virus (HCV), and Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Students who have potential contact with blood and/or body fluids of patients risk infection. Exposure requires both an injury (i.e. percutaneous injury from a needle or other sharp object, a splash of blood or other body fluid onto a mucous membrane or non-intact skin, or a human bite that breaks the skin) and contact with blood or body fluid capable of transmitting HBV, HCV or HIV. In the event of potential exposure, students must report to their supervisor and seek immediate medical attention.

**Risk of transmission:** Students who perform or assist in performing exposure-prone procedures risk transmitting blood borne viruses to their patients. Exposure-prone procedures include: Digital palpation of a needle tip in a body cavity or the simultaneous presence of the student’s fingers and a needle or other sharp instrument or object in a blind or highly confined anatomic site, (e.g., during major abdominal, cardiothoracic, vaginal and/or orthopaedic operations); or repair of major traumatic injuries; or manipulation, cutting or removal of any oral or perioral tissue, including tooth structures, during which blood from a student has the potential to expose the patient’s open tissue to a blood borne pathogen.

**Faculty of Health Sciences requirements for students in Health Professional programs:**

**Hepatitis B vaccination:** Students must be protected with Hepatitis B vaccination unless they are known to have chronic HBV infection or are immune due to naturally acquired infection. Proof of immunity requires both documented Hepatitis B vaccinations according to a recommended immunization schedule and positive post-vaccination anti-HBs serology. If not immune after one documented vaccination series, booster dose(s) of vaccine are required. If not immune after two documented vaccination series, the student is considered a vaccine non-responder. **Students without documented proof of immunity are considered susceptible to HBV infection in the event of possible exposure.** No special precautions are required other than routine infection prevention procedures; however, passive immunization with Hepatitis B Immune Globulin may be required in the event of potential exposure to HBV.

**Screening for blood borne viruses:**

- **Postgraduate Medical Education** students must comply with the CPSO Blood Borne Viruses Policy and self-report positive serology to the CPSO and their Assistant Dean.
- Students in the **Midwifery, Physician Assistant and Undergraduate Medical Education** programs may perform or assist in performing exposure-prone procedures during their training, and are therefore obligated to know their status. HBsAg serology (test for chronic Hepatitis B infection) is tested any time after completion of Hepatitis B primary vaccination series; if the series is still in process test is within six months prior to program start. HCV and HIV serology is tested within six months prior to the program start and repeated every four years during the program. Only the dates of tests are required by the Health Screening Office, verified by a nurse or physician after reviewing the reports with the student. Students with positive serology must self-report their status to the Assistant Dean of their program for further guidance.
- Screening and/or reporting is not required for students in other health professional programs.

Click on the links below for more information:

- Public Health Ontario Routine Practices Fact Sheet
- OHA/OMA Blood Borne Diseases Protocol
- CPSO Blood Borne Viruses Policy
- **HBV:** Public Health Agency of Canada Hepatitis B Get the Facts
  World Health Organization Hepatitis B Fact Sheet
- **HCV:** Public Health Agency of Canada Hepatitis C
  World Health Organization Hepatitis C Fact Sheet
- **HIV:** Government of Canada HIV and AIDS
  World Health Organization HIV/AIDS Fact Sheet

**Health Screening Office**, MDCL 3514, 1280 Main Street West, Hamilton ON L8S 4K1, (905) 525-9140 ext 22249, fax 905-528-4348