FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
Health Professional Programs
Health Screening Requirements

(rev. Mar 2017)

Health Screening website:  http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/healthscreening/

McMaster University Faculty of Health Sciences health screening requirements are based on current Ontario Hospital Association and Ontario Medical Association (OHA/OMA) Joint Communicable Diseases Screening Protocols, Council of Ontario Faculties of Medicine (COFM) Immunization and Blood Borne Viruses Policies, and Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC) immunization requirements.

Students should have their documentation available in case it is requested by the placement site.

If individual placement sites have additional requirements over and above Faculty of Health Sciences requirements, students should provide documentation directly to the placement site.

The Health Screening Office reviews all health screening documentation submitted by students in order to verify that students have met the requirements. Students in the following Health Professional programs must be cleared by the Health Screening Office before they may participate in clinical activities, including clinical skills:

- Midwifery Education Program
- MSc Child Life & Pediatric Psychosocial Care
- MSc Occupational Therapy Program
- MSc Physiotherapy Program
- MSc Speech-Language Pathology Program
- Nursing Graduate and Undergraduate Programs
- Physician Assistant Education Program
- Postgraduate Medical Education Program (excluding visiting elective students from Ontario Universities)
- Undergraduate Medical Education Program
- Undergraduate Medicine Visiting Electives Program

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES HEALTH SCREENING REQUIREMENTS:

1. Adult Pertussis vaccine:  One dose tetanus diphtheria pertussis vaccine (Tdap) age 18 years or older.
2. Tetanus, Diphtheria & Polio – may be in process first year of program:  Primary vaccination series, plus tetanus diphtheria booster in last ten years if required.
3. Tuberculosis (TB):
   - **Postgraduate Medicine:**
     - **No previous positive TB skin test (TST):** Negative two-step TST, plus additional negative single TST post-exposure if required, prior to program start date.  For international students who cannot access skin testing, negative IGRA serology within 12 months prior to program start date.
     - **Positive TST or positive IGRA serology:** Negative chest x-ray subsequent to the positive test, no symptoms of active TB disease, plus verification of assessment and education of the positive result.
   - **Undergraduate Medicine Visiting Electives:** (AFMC Immunization and Testing Form)
     - **No previous positive TST:** Negative two-step TST, plus additional negative single TST if two-step test more than six months prior to medical school start date (for international students who cannot access skin testing, negative IGRA serology within six months prior to medical school start date), plus verification of no symptoms of active TB disease post-exposure.
     - **Positive TST or positive IGRA serology:** Negative chest x-ray subsequent to the positive test, plus verification of no symptoms of active TB disease.
   - **All other programs:**
     - **No previous positive TST:** Negative two-step TST, plus additional negative single TST if two-step test more than six months prior to program start date, plus annual risk assessment and negative single TST post-exposure if required.
     - **Positive TST or positive IGRA serology:** Negative chest x-ray subsequent to the positive test, no symptoms of active TB disease, plus verification of assessment and education of the positive result, plus annual verification of no symptoms of active TB disease.
4. Measles, Mumps, Rubella & Varicella:  Two vaccinations at least four weeks apart after first birthday (one rubella vaccination acceptable), OR serologic proof of immunity (IgG antibody).
5. Hepatitis B – may be in process first year of program:  Serologic proof of immunity (Anti-HBs ≥ 10 IU/L), OR if no proof of immunity by program start date, verification of awareness and education of status, plus completion of requirement during first year of program if vaccinations still in process.
6. Influenza:  Student to provide proof of current season’s influenza immunization directly to the placement site.
7. Blood borne viruses:  Students in all Health Professional programs who are known to have positive serology for Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg), Hepatitis C (HCV), and/or HIV must self-report their status to the Assistant Dean of their program.
   - **Postgraduate Medicine:** HBsAg serology required. (Students comply with CPSO Blood Borne Viruses Policy for HCV and HIV.)
   - **Midwifery, Physician Assistant, and Undergraduate Medicine programs:** HBsAg, HCV and HIV serology required.
   - HBsAg serology tested on or after test for Hepatitis B immunity.  HCV and HIV serology tested within six months prior to program start date and every three years thereafter during the program.  Only the dates of tests are required.