

Undergraduate Medicine Visiting Electives Program
Blood Borne Viruses

Students who perform or assist in performing exposure-prone procedures risk transmitting blood borne viruses to their patients. Exposure-prone procedures are invasive procedures where there is the potential for direct contact between the skin (usually a hand finger or thumb) of the student and sharp instruments, needle tips, or sharp tissues (spicules of bone or teeth) in body cavities, wounds, or in poorly visualized, confined anatomical sites.

Medical students are likely to perform or assist in performing exposure-prone procedures and are therefore obligated to know their serological status with respect to blood borne viruses Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Reference: <http://cou.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/COFM-Blood-Borne-Viruses-Policy.pdf>

Students with Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and /or HIV infection must self-report their status to the McMaster University Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education before they may start their elective (telephone 905-525-9140 ext 22141).

1. **Hepatitis B:** HBsAg serology (Hepatitis B surface antigen) required for all students

HCP to document test results in Section H. of the AFMC Student Portal Immunization and Testing Form.

Note: HBsAg (Hepatitis B surface **antigen**) is a different test than anti-HBs (Hepatitis B surface **antibody**). HBsAg tests for chronic Hepatitis B infection and anti-HBs tests for Hepatitis B immunity.

Test must be conducted on or after the time of assessment for hepatitis B immunity, OR if hepatitis B primary immunization series is still in process, test must be dated on or after medical school admission. Wait until at least 28 days after a Hepatitis B immunization to avoid the possibility of a false-positive HBsAg result.

2. **Hepatitis C and HIV:** Serologic testing required for all students

There are two options for reporting –

Preferred – Submit *Appendix E. HIV and Hepatitis C Testing* in the 2018 AFMC Student Portal Immunization and Testing Form available here: <https://www.afmcstudentportal.ca/immunization>

- OR -

Submit official reports for Hepatitis C and HIV serology.

Tests must be dated after March 1st the year of medical school entry and are valid for four years. Upload Appendix E. (or reports) to the AFMC Student Portal.

For immunization questions or concerns, contact the McMaster Health Screening office:
Email hrsadmin@mcmaster.ca, Telephone 905-525-9140 ext 22249.

Visiting Electives health screening website: <https://fhs.mcmaster.ca/healthscreening/electives.html>