

Health Screening website: <https://fhs.mcmaster.ca/healthscreening/>

Health Screening Office contact: hrsadmin@mcmaster.ca, 905-525-9140 ext 22249

Learners in Faculty of Health Sciences health professional programs and learners in non-professional programs with courses which include clinical activities are required to understand and comply with the Faculty of Health Sciences health screening requirements. All health screening documentation must be reviewed and cleared by the Health Screening Office before learners may participate in clinical activities (interaction with patients in a clinical setting or as research subjects, and for health professional programs only, clinical skills sessions with fellow students or standardized patients, virtual or in person).

Learners are responsible to apprise themselves of any additional requirements at individual clinical placement sites and submit documentation directly to the placement site.

Faculty of Health Sciences health screening requirements:

1. **Exceptions:** Letter from a physician if unable to complete any requirements due to medical reasons.
2. **Tuberculosis (TB):**
 - Postgraduate Medicine: (prior to program or elective start)
 - Negative baseline two-step TST (two separate tuberculin skin tests spaced between 7 days and 12 months apart); AND additional negative TST if required (within the last 12 months for new trainees; within 12 months prior to home school program start for electives from other Canadian Universities); OR negative IGRA serology within the last 12 months for international fellows and international electives; AND TB risk assessment and verification of no symptoms of TB disease.
 - OR positive TST or other positive TB history; AND a negative chest x-ray dated subsequent to the positive TST or other positive TB history; AND TB risk assessment and verification of no symptoms of TB disease.
 - Visiting Undergraduate Medicine electives: (prior to elective start)
 - Negative baseline two-step TST; AND additional negative TST within 6 months prior to medical school entry if required; OR IGRA serology within 6 months prior to medical school entry for international learners; AND verification of no symptoms of TB disease if risk factors for TB apply since the last negative TST/IGRA;
 - OR positive TST or other positive TB history; AND a negative chest x-ray dated subsequent to the positive TST or other positive TB history; AND verification of no symptoms of TB disease.
 - Other health professional programs: (prior to program start and during the program)
 - Negative baseline two-step TST; AND additional negative TST within 6 months prior to program start if required; AND post-exposure TST if required during the program; AND annual TB risk assessment.
 - OR positive TST or other positive TB history; AND a negative chest x-ray dated subsequent to the positive TST or other positive TB history; AND verification of no symptoms of TB disease: AND annual TB risk assessment.
 - Non-Professional programs: (prior to course start and annually if required)
 - Negative baseline two-step TST; AND additional negative TST within the last 12 months if required; AND annual TB risk assessment and post-exposure TST if required for returning students.
 - OR positive TST or other positive TB history; AND a negative chest x-ray dated subsequent to the positive TST or other positive TB history; AND verification of no symptoms of TB disease; AND annual TB risk assessment if required.
3. **Pertussis:** One Tdap vaccine (tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis) age 18 years or older.
4. **Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio:** Documented vaccination series; minimum 3 doses; minimum one month between the first two doses; minimum 6 months between the last two doses in a series (may be in process at program/elective/course start).
5. **Measles, Mumps, Rubella:** Two measles vaccines, two mumps vaccines, and one rubella vaccine, given at age 12 months or older and spaced at least 28 days apart; OR positive IgG antibody serology for Postgraduate Medicine and visiting Undergraduate Medicine electives.
6. **Varicella:** Two vaccines given at age 12 months or older and spaced at least 28 days apart; OR positive IgG antibody serology.
7. **Hepatitis B:** Documented vaccination series at age appropriate dosages and schedule (unless immunity due to naturally acquired infection or chronic Hepatitis B infection is documented); AND serology for immunity (anti-HBs) tested at least 28 days after the last dose in the series (may be in process at program/elective/course start).
8. **Influenza:** Seasonal influenza immunization for clinical placements occurring between November and June.
9. **Blood borne viruses** – Hepatitis B, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis C:
 - Postgraduate Medicine: Testing according to the CPSO Blood Borne Viruses Policy; learners self-report positive results to the Associate Dean of Postgraduate Medical Education.
 - Midwifery, Physician Assistant, and Undergraduate Medicine: Testing within six months prior to program start; repeat testing for Hepatitis B surface antigen after a documented vaccination series if required; repeat testing for HIV and Hepatitis C after four years during the program or after a leave of absence of more than 12 months; learners self-report positive results to the Assistant/Associate Dean of their program (may be in process at program start).
 - Visiting Undergraduate Medicine electives: Testing for Hepatitis B surface antigen after a documented vaccination series (or within 6 months prior to medical school entry if the series is still in process); testing for HIV and Hepatitis C within six months prior to medical school entry and repeated after four years for electives in surgical specialties, obstetrics, gynecology, and emergency; learners self-report positive results to the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education.
 - Other programs: Testing and/or reporting not required.