Health Screening Requirements
Health Professional Programs

Health Screening website:  https://fhs.mcmaster.ca/healthscreening/
Health Screening Office contact: hrsadmin@mcmaster.ca, 905-525-9140 ext 22249

Learners in the following health professional programs must meet the Faculty of Health Sciences health screening requirements as part of the non-academic requirements for their program AND be cleared by the Health Screening Office before they may participate in clinical activities:

- Child Life & Pediatric Psychosocial Care
- Medicine (Undergraduate and Postgraduate)
- Midwifery
- Nursing (Undergraduate and Graduate)
- Occupational Therapy
- Physician Assistant
- Physiotherapy
- Speech-Language Pathology

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

FHS 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 residents, fellows and international electives; within 12 months prior to home school start date for electives from other Canadian Universities); OR negative IGRA serology within the last 12 months for international fellows and electives; 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.
   
   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 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 a negative chest x-ray and verification of no symptoms of TB disease if TST converts to positive during the program.
   - 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 prior to program start and annually.
3. **Pertussis:** One Tdap vaccine (tetanus-diptheria-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 or elective 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 or elective 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; 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 is not required.