

## Purpose:

Key 2 Learning College has an obligation to provide a work environment without risks to health and safety, so far as is reasonably practicable. This obligation includes eliminating or minimising, so far as is reasonably practicable, the risks associated with exposure to disease/s which may be preventable by vaccination.

This policy and procedure aims to assist Key 2 Learning College to assess and manage exposure to disease/s, and thereby meet or exceed its obligations under current legislation.

## Scope:

This procedure also applies to students on work placement in the following settings:

- Aged Care Facilities
- Hospitals (sub-acute and acute)
- Community Services
- Mental Health Services

## Policy Statement:

Immunisation and vaccination is the responsibility of the student. It is recommended that an informed, individual choice is made about this matter. Students should refer to a doctor of their choice for discussion and advice.

Students will come into contact with a large variety of individuals while attending Student Placement. Some of these people may have a communicable disease. Enrolled Nurses are categorised as a Category A Health Care Worker. These workers are defined as being at risk of exposure to contaminated blood and body fluids (DoH, 2010).

Immunisation and vaccination is one of the most effective public health measures for the control of communicable diseases, protecting both the individual and the community as a whole.

For the protection of students and potential clients, evidence of vaccination status is required by certain Student Placement agencies prior to attendance

For further information on recommended immunisation for Health Care Workers in the ACT, please refer to the ACT Health website at: <http://www.health.act.gov.au/our-services/immunisation/are-you-risk>

Key 2 Learning College strongly recommends that students have all their immunisations up to date and have documented evidence of their immunisation status ready for course commencement.

Many Health Care Student Placement facilities will require students to prove their immunisation status and may deny a student entry to that Placement if it is not adequate or not provided.

## Conscientious objection

When a student objects to a vaccination that is required of the facility or jurisdiction the unvaccinated student will not be permitted to undertake invasive procedures or work with specific client groups identified by health facilities.

Where the placement is a requirement to complete the course and there is no alternative placement, the student will be counselled by the Team Leader about non-progression and inability to complete the course.

Students who decline vaccination must provide advice in writing (e.g. email) to the Course Coordinators as a record.

## Procedure

### Risk of exposure

- A vaccine/s may be identified as a measure to provide immunity for particular diseases. These include, but are not limited to, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Polio, Rabies, Tetanus, Tuberculosis, Typhoid Fever, Yellow Fever, etc.
- All participants in activities that may involve environments with a high risk of exposure to diseases will be provided information and advice about such activities and risks and how to manage those risks.
- The provision of relevant vaccination and immunisation information will be provided to specified parties:
- Students are made aware of the required vaccinations to maximise protection for participating in each course they are enrolled in. Requirements will be provided in line with any relevant course or unit specifications (e.g. course entry requirements, Student Handbooks)
- Where work placement is provided by hospitals or other agency facilities, there is an obligation to observe and comply with the immunisation requirements of those agencies.
- Students will be responsible for their own vaccination and screening (testing) costs relevant work placements.

## Identified high risk activities and groups

### High risk activities:

- a) working with infectious organisms
- b) working with human blood or body fluids
- c) working with children or the elderly
- d) working in specific high-risk communities
- e) clinical work with humans
- h) exposure to human faeces or intestinal contents
- i) COVID-19

### High risk groups:

- a) students engaged in nursing and health course activities

### Immunisation Requirements:

The following immunisation record must be completed and submitted before students commence the Diploma of Nursing (HLT54115) at Key to Learning College.

Refer to the information below which details the requirements for each immunisation.

- Measles/Mumps/Rubella – documented two doses of measles containing vaccine (for those born during or after 1966) or history of disease.
- Chicken Pox – course of two injections or history of disease or positive serology.
- Hepatitis B – history of three (3) injections and evidence of blood levels >10 ml U/ml after vaccinations.
- Mantoux test – within 12 months prior to commencement of student Placement.
- Diphtheria, Pertussis (Whooping Cough) & Tetanus - One documented dose of adult dTpa vaccine within the last 10 years.

- Influenza – annual vaccination.
- Coronavirus x 2 does
- Tuberculosis (TB) Screening - The Health Directorate requires students to undergo TB screening within three months prior to their first Student Placement. TB screening is for baseline purposes. Students who have travelled to high TB endemic countries for periods of 3 months or more are required to have repeat screening.

Students from ACT Education Providers are required to have their TB screening completed before they start Placement. This can be done at the Dept of Respiratory and Sleep Medicine, Building 1, Level 2, The Canberra Hospital, Yamba Drive, Garran.

Interstate students, who find it difficult to access TB screening services, may present for screening on their first day at the Canberra Hospital. However, students need to inform education providers and CPO knows as soon as possible if this is required in order to make roster arrangements.

The TB screening fee is currently \$55.00 for students with Medicare (subject to change) and will need to be paid on the day of screening. The Department of Respiratory and Sleep Medicine will provide details of where to make the payment when you present to DRSM. Current ACT Health care workers will not be charged for this service.

Students attending from interstate who have had recent TB screening are advised to email their TB results to [respsleep@act.gov.au](mailto:respsleep@act.gov.au) to determine if these are adequate for ACT requirements.

Please note – A Tuberculin Skin test cannot be performed within 4 weeks of Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR) vaccine. Please attend TB screening prior to MMR vaccination. Please be aware that you will be required to return to the clinic 3 days later for the results. Tuberculin skin testing cannot be performed if a live vaccine has been given in the last 4 weeks (MMR or Varicella).

# VACCINATIONS/IMMUNISATIONS POLICY and PROCEDURE

Current Immunisation Record					
<b>Student Name:</b>		<b>Student Signature:</b>			
Immunisation Details					
Immunisation*	Previous Disease History	Date of Vaccination	Date of Serology & Result	Doctor's Details/Stamp	Doctor's Signature
Please cross out whichever does not apply					
<b>Measles</b>					
<b>Mumps</b>					
<b>Rubella</b>					
<b>Varicella Zoster</b>					
<b>Chicken Pox</b>					
<b>Hepatitis A</b>					
<b>Hepatitis B</b>					
<b>Mantoux</b>					

# VACCINATIONS/IMMUNISATIONS POLICY and PROCEDURE

<b>Influenza</b>					
<b>Coronavirus x 2 doses</b>					
<b>Polio</b>					
<b>Adult Diphtheria &amp; Tetanus</b>					
<b>Pertussis (Whooping Cough)</b>					