

Practice Education Immunization Requirements Frequently Asked Questions

I can't find evidence of my vaccine history. How can I prove my immunity?

Book an appointment with your physician or health care professional. Serology testing can be done to measure antibodies or antigens, and is accepted by JIBC as proof of immunity. If your serology test indicates low levels of immunity, additional vaccination is required.

I have completed the series of vaccines for hepatitis B. Do I need a serology test?

Yes, post-vaccination serology is required at least one month after the last dose of hepatitis B vaccine. A documented serology with anti-HBs level ≥ 10 IU/L done after the last dose of a complete vaccine series is considered to be protection for life.

What do I do if my hepatitis B serology results show anti-HBs levels < 10 IU/L?

If the test result shows your level is < 10 IU/L, you will require a second vaccine series and retest one month after the last dose of the second series. If anti-HBs remains < 10 IU/L after second vaccine series, you will be considered a non-responder and susceptible to hepatitis B virus. In this case, contact your program to complete a JIBC Vaccination Waiver Form.

When can I get my TB skin test?

Upon acceptance into the program, you will be provided with details on when to have the TB skin test. This is to ensure your results are valid at the time of your first practice education placement. Do not have the test or submit results earlier than notified, as they will expire.

What do I need to consider when scheduling a TB skin test?

Your TB skin test must be read by a trained professional 48 - 72 hours after administration. Be ready to attend two appointments for this test.

Live virus vaccines (TDP, Polio, MMR, and Varicella) can interfere with a TB skin test by reducing the reactivity of the skin test because of mild suppression of the immune system and result in a false negative. A TB skin test can be done before or on the same day that a live virus vaccine is given. However, if a live vaccine is given on the previous day or earlier, the TB skin test should be delayed for at least 4 weeks (28 days). For more information, contact your immunization provider.

What do I do if my TB skin test is positive?

If your TB skin test is positive (>10 mm of induration or greater), a chest x-ray providing clearance for active TB is required. A health care professional needs to refer you for the chest x-ray.

What do I need to know about the influenza (flu) vaccination?

In 2012, health authorities in BC adopted a policy requiring all employees, students, physicians, residents, contractors, vendors and volunteers to get immunized or to wear a mask during influenza season when in a patient care area.

A patient care area is defined as an area within a health care facility and also includes any other location where care is provided, such as home and community care locations, including a client's home, inside an ambulance or on the street.

Flu season generally occurs during the fall, winter and early spring. In BC, the vaccine is usually available starting in mid-October and students must be vaccinated annually.

Sources: *Practice Education Guidelines for BC (Immunization)* <https://hspanada.net/features/>
BC Centre for Disease Control <http://www.bccdc.ca/about>
Immunize BC <https://immunizebc.ca/>
Ministry of Health – [Influenza Prevention Policy](#)