

Occupational Immunisation Sessions

At the start of your UWE Bristol course, you will have a timetabled session to see Occupational Health.

Please bring any vaccination records you already have with you to this session.

These records are held by your GP, a previous occupational health department or in your childhood vaccines book. If you don't have your record, you'll need to contact your GP.

It is important that you attend all timetabled sessions needed otherwise clinical placements will be affected.

All students will be seen individually to check their vaccination status and if required, provided with necessary vaccinations to protect themselves and others and promote safe working.

Contraindications and side-effects

- You may develop local tenderness at the site of the injection – this is a normal reaction and will settle after approximately 48 hours.
- You may get a mild raised temperature after a vaccine – this is a normal reaction and will settle.
- Severe reaction to a vaccine is very rare and you will be given appropriate treatment should this occur.
- If pregnant you will not be able to receive vaccines, however you must still attend your scheduled session for your vaccination history to be recorded.
- If you have received the vaccines listed in this leaflet before, please still attend the first session with your evidence so that it can be recorded by UWE Bristol.

You may be asked to attend the professional suitability panel if you do not attend all the necessary sessions or provide evidence as requested

If you will be working in a laboratory during your placements, you will require some extra vaccinations as well as the ones above due to the nature of the specimens you will be in contact with.

Healthcare Science students only

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Hepatitis A and typhoid

Hepatitis A and typhoid are both spread through contaminated food and water (faecal oral route). The vaccination comes as a combined vaccination and you will need one dose at the start of your course.

The typhoid vaccine lasts for three years and hepatitis A will last for one year. You will be offered a hepatitis A booster at one year, which will then be effective for 25 years.

Diphtheria, tetanus and polio

This is a combined vaccine. It is likely you will have had the full primary course as a child; therefore please make sure you bring any childhood/ GP vaccination records with you. We will offer you a booster if required.

Midwifery and Paramedic students only

As a student Midwife or Paramedic, you will be undertaking exposure prone procedures (EPPs).

"EPPs are those where there is a risk that injury to the worker may result in exposure of the patient's open tissues to the blood of the worker. These procedures include those where the worker's gloved hands may be in contact with sharp instruments, needle tips or sharp tissues (spicules of bone or teeth) inside a patient's open body cavity, wound or confined anatomical space where the hands or fingertips may not be completely visible at all times."

(Department of Health, March 2007)

Healthcare workers who are new to the NHS and whose role will involve EPPs are required to have an identified validated sample (IVS) blood test for hepatitis B surface antigen, hepatitis C and HIV antibodies. You will be required to give verbal consent when you attend for your blood test.

Please bring photographic ID (e.g. passport, driving licence or UWE Bristol ID card) in order to validate the sample.

MMR

The MMR vaccination is a live vaccine, containing live attenuated strains of measles, mumps and rubella viruses.

It is likely you received two MMR vaccinations during childhood and documentary evidence of this will be required to ensure accurate UWE Bristol records. Alternatively, documentary evidence of an immunity to measles, mumps and rubella by blood test will be satisfactory.

If you have had only one or no MMR vaccinations, we will vaccinate you. A course consists of two doses of MMR given one month apart.

Chicken pox (varicella)

Varicella is an acute, highly infectious disease. If you have had the disease in the past, you can be considered protected. If you have no history of the disease or are unsure, we can check your immunity with a blood test. Most people will be immune, however there is a vaccination available for those who have no antibodies. This is a live vaccine consisting of two doses given one month apart.

If you are unable to attend a session, please phone 0117 3423400 to make an appointment at either Whitefriars, Southmead Hospital or Weston Hospital.

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B is a blood borne virus that attacks the liver and is potentially life threatening. It is 100 times more infectious than HIV.

You could be at risk if you sustain a needle stick or contamination injury, but it is preventable. You will be started on a course of safe and effective vaccines during your first session with us, ensuring protection by the time your first clinical placement starts. The vaccines will be given at zero, one and two months with a blood test two months after to check immunity status. You will require a fourth dose at 12 months. A booster is then recommended after five years.

Tuberculosis (TB)

TB is an infectious disease that usually affects the lungs, although it can affect almost any part of the body. It is caught through prolonged close contact with someone who has TB.

If you have had a BCG vaccination previously, we will check you have a BCG scar (usually on your upper arm) and this will be sufficient evidence. Questions regarding previous exposures and risk factors will also form part of the screening process.