



## **POLICY REGARDING IMMUNIZATION, COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY**

The Michener Institute's primary purpose is the education and training of health care professionals. It is important that students enrolled in Michener programs/courses understand that there is a possible risk of exposure to communicable diseases. This exposure may occur when performing specific procedures, such as phlebotomy, on fellow students or patients. It may also occur when working with various types of specimens, including blood and body fluids that may be used in testing procedures.

In order to minimize the possibility of exposure, students are responsible for conducting themselves in a manner consistent with the health and safety of themselves and others, and shall be given appropriate education, including procedures related to general infection control and precautions related to body substances.

### **IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

The student is responsible for completing all the immunization requirements. The immunization program must meet and remain current with the standards and associated health practices set forth in:

The Public Hospitals Act 1990, Revised Statutes of Ontario, Regulation 965  
Communicable Disease Surveillance Protocols published jointly by the Ontario Hospital Association and the Ontario Medical Association and approved by the Minister of Health  
any future legislated changes to the Public Hospitals Act

### **Immunization Procedure**

Once the completed Health Record and immunity blood test documents are received, it will be reviewed for completeness by the Michener Health Nurse. If necessary the student will be contacted for specific immunization requirements. Due to the nature of some of the immunizations, it is important that students start the required immunizations immediately.

**Students must complete the all the requirements prior to the start classes.**

Students can receive immunizations through their family physician. It is expected the student incur all costs associated with Immunizations.

Students are responsible for remaining current in their immunizations throughout the duration of their program. Students should ensure they have a proof of their immunizations before beginning their clinical practicum as clinical sites use this record to verify immunization status. Upon request, the Michener Health Nurse can provide a wallet size immunization record. Students who do not comply with immunization requirements will be unable to participate in any clinical and / or specified didactic components of the program.

**Strict confidentiality concerning the applicant's state of health will be maintained.**

**If you require additional information on the Privacy Policy at Michener, please call the Privacy Officer at 416-596-3101 or e-mail [privacy@michener.ca](mailto:privacy@michener.ca)**



## **Specific Immunization Requirements**

### **I. Tuberculosis**

In accordance based on the above recommended guidelines, Two-Step Tuberculin Skin Test (Mantoux Test) is required for all students, regardless of prior BCG inoculation.

Students are required to have a documented **2-step** tuberculosis skin test done prior to clinical start date. This involves the planting of a tuberculosis skin test in the forearm, having it read by a physician or Occupational Health Nurse 2-3 days later, and if negative the process will be repeated in the other arm 1-3 weeks later. The 2-step skin test identifies the truly **positive** skin test. It is essential to have accurate baseline information at the beginning of your clinical placement, as this is the comparison that is used in the event of an exposure.

If there is a documented negative single-step during the preceding 12 months, then an additional 1-step may be given.

Individuals who have a positive skin test are required to submit documentation of the results of a chest x-ray done within the current calendar year.

**Students are required to have an Annual TB test and submit documented proof when completed.**

### **II. Hepatitis B**

You must have a Hepatitis B immunity blood test done to confirm the presence or absence of antibodies.

If the student is positive for Hepatitis B antibodies, the student is considered to be immune. However, the Occupational Health Nurse may counsel the student as required based on the immunity level.

If the student is negative for Hepatitis B antibodies, the student is required to complete a series of three doses of vaccine in an attempt to induce seroconversion.

An initial injection of the vaccine is given immediately with subsequent injections of the mandatory 3-part series to follow 1 month and 6 months after the initial injection.  
4-6 weeks after the last dose of Hepatitis B vaccine.



### **III. Measles (Rubeola)**

One of the following is acceptable:

- Persons born *before* Jan 1, 1970 are considered immune
- If born *after* Jan 1, 1970 documentation of 2 doses of measles vaccines. One after the 1st birthday plus one booster dose
- Physician-diagnosed measles
- Laboratory evidence of measles immunity (positive titre)
- If non-immune (negative titre), requires 1 dose of MMR unless contraindicated

### **IV. Mumps**

One of the following is acceptable:

- Persons born *before* Jan 1, 1970 are considered immune
- If born *after* Jan 1, 1970 documentation of 2 doses of mumps vaccines. One after the 1st birthday plus one booster dose --
- Physician-diagnosed mumps
- Laboratory evidence of mumps immunity (positive titre)
- If non-immune (negative titre), requires 1 dose of MMR unless contraindicated

### **V. Rubella (German Measles)**

One of the following is acceptable:

- Persons born *before* Jan 1, 1970 are considered immune
- If born *after* Jan 1, 1970 documentation of 1 dose of live rubella-containing vaccine
- Physician-diagnosed rubella
- Laboratory evidence of rubella immunity (positive titre)
- If non-immune (negative titre), requires 1 dose of MMR unless contraindicated

### **VI. Varicella (Chicken Pox)**

One of the following is acceptable:

- Laboratory evidence of varicella immunity (positive titre)
- If non-immune (negative titre), requires 2 doses of chicken pox vaccines, given at least 4 weeks apart

### **VII. Tetanus/Diphtheria and Polio**

TdP booster is required every 10 years unless contraindicated

**All students are required to complete and forward a copy of the following blood test to determine immunity (titre):**

1. Hepatitis B
2. Measles
3. Mumps
4. Rubella
5. Varicella

### **POLICY ON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

1. Students will be required to comply with provincial communicable disease surveillance protocols developed under the Public Hospitals Act Regulation 965. The student will initiate the immunization process upon acceptance into the individual program.
2. Students may be asked to volunteer to participate in laboratory sessions involving practicing procedures on themselves and/or fellow students during the didactic portion of their programs. Students should inform the occupational health nurse if they have health concerns that would preclude them from safely participating in such activities.
3. In some laboratory sessions, students may work with specimens supplied by external agencies such as Canadian Blood Services. These specimens have been screened for communicable diseases and are the safest specimens with which to work.
4. During the clinical phase of programs, students are required to take part in the care of all patients assigned to their care. Patients may have various communicable diseases including Hepatitis, Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.
5. Admitted applicants who are chronic carriers of Hepatitis B or C Virus or who have contracted Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection are required to inform the Occupational Health Nurse at The Michener Institute of their status. The Occupational Health Nurse will provide counseling and, as appropriate, will discuss the case with The Michener Institute Occupational Health Physician to establish the need for further counseling including the ramifications of the infection on clinical practice.
6. Following admission, students with positive TB tests, students who do not develop immunity to Hepatitis B Virus after vaccination and students with no immunity to varicella will be counseled by the Michener Occupational Health Nurse. In addition, the Michener Occupational Health Nurse will discuss the cases of students who test positive for the Hepatitis B viral surface antigen with the Occupational Health Physician to assess the need for further counseling including that related to the ramifications regarding clinical practice.
7. All students are expected to understand and adhere to infection control policies, including the principles of body substance precautions, when participating in the examination and care of all patients, regardless of the diagnosis.
8. If students are exposed to or contract certain diseases while working in health facilities they will be required to follow OMA/OHA protocols as stated in the Public Hospitals Act. This may include providing body fluid specimens. Although health care workers are sometimes exposed to certain diseases it is rare that a health care worker contracts a disease in the workplace.
- 9. All students are expected to be in a state of health such that they may participate in the academic program, including patient care, without posing a risk to themselves, to patients or others.**
10. Students who fail to meet these responsibilities may face sanctions under provisions of the Standards of Professional Behaviour for The Michener Institute Students. These standards are referenced in the Michener Intranet.



## **REPORTING OF INCIDENTS**

Students who incur an injury or other medically related incident while at The Michener Institute, must seek medical assistance immediately through the health nurse. The student will report the incident to the appropriate faculty member, who will file an incident report with the health nurse. The nurse will follow-up as required.

Students who incur an injury or other medically related incident while at a clinical site, including an incident that may place them at risk of acquiring a communicable disease, must seek medical attention. The patient's safety must first be ensured. The student will report the incident at the earliest opportunity to the clinical coordinator or delegate and to the occupational health nurse where applicable. The clinical coordinator or delegate and/or the occupational health nurse at the site will inform the Health Services at The Michener Institute where appropriate counseling and follow-up (including reporting to WSIB) will be provided if required. Incident reports will be forwarded to the Program Coordinators for review.

## **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

All international students must comply with the above health and immunization policies.

It is mandatory for all international students to have health coverage. This coverage is covered under the Student Activity Fee. All international students have comprehensive health coverage which is administered by Cowan Benefits Consulting which has been arranged by MERCER Human Resource Consulting. Please check the website at [www.ismplan.com](http://www.ismplan.com) for further information on the benefits of this plan. Students are covered on an annual basis for the length of the program.