



## Student Occupational Health Nursing, Midwifery, Operating Department Practice & Paramedic Science

Working with our student occupational health provider, Optima Health, Staffordshire University wants to ensure that you have any support you need to fulfil the requirements of your course and that you are fully protected before going to your practice learning environments. All assessments are based on the Higher Education Occupational Physicians/Practitioners Standards (HEOPS) which were developed in recognition of the requirements of the professional bodies that award registration status and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), whilst also meeting the criteria in the Equality Act 2010 which ensures patient safety.

There are two steps to our occupational health process:

- **Fit for Course Health Screening**
- **Immunisation Programme**

### **FIT FOR COURSE HEALTH SCREENING**

#### **What is the 'Fit for Course' screening?**

Staffordshire University is committed to providing equality of opportunity for all students and where possible all reasonable adjustments will be provided to enable successful completion of your chosen course. However, the University does need to ensure that you will also be able to fulfil the requirements of the relevant regulatory body, Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)/The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and be medically suitable to work within your chosen field. This screening is to ensure we are aware of any disabilities or health conditions which could affect your ability to complete your course and progress to future employment.

#### **How does the 'Fit for Course' process work?**

2-3 months prior to the start of your course you will receive an email from Optima Health giving you instructions to log in to their online portal and complete a pre-placement questionnaire (PPQ). This should be completed within 48 hours of receiving the email.

Your responses will then be clinically reviewed by an Occupational Health Nurse. If necessary, follow up telephone, video or face to face appointments will be made for you to discuss any health conditions you have disclosed, both past and present. Occasionally there may a requirement to refer you to the Occupational Health Physician prior to any decision of fitness being made.

### **What information will I need to give?**

You will need to disclose all physical and mental health conditions, **both past and present**. This information will then be assessed for any disabilities or health conditions which could be relevant to your course, registration, or future employment.

You should upload details of any vaccinations you have ever received - details of these can normally be obtained from your GP, or previous health or social care employer. Do not worry if you are not able to provide these immediately, complete the remainder of the health screening form so that it does not delay your enrolment and send any evidence via email to [team8@optimahealth.co.uk](mailto:team8@optimahealth.co.uk) with your name, applicant ID number and date of birth.

### **What happens if I do not disclose all my medical information?**

You have a duty to provide all relevant, truthful, and accurate information to the occupational health provider and no information should be withheld. Any failure to do so may result in the offer of a place being withdrawn or reconsideration of your fitness to continue with your course.

### **Who will my information be shared with?**

You can be assured that the information you provide will remain confidential to the staff of our student occupational health provider, Optima Health. However, after full discussions with yourself, they will advise the University of the functional effects of any health condition/ disability if this is relevant to your own health & safety, educational needs and/or patient safety. They will also advise on the need to consider reasonable adjustments and/or additional support.

### **What happens if any health conditions are considered relevant to completion of my course and future employment?**

Our student occupational health provider, Optima Health, will fully discuss with you the outcome of their assessment, including what adjustments/support they feel would be needed to enable you to undertake your chosen course. They will then ask for your consent to share these findings with the University. On receipt of this information the University will consider if it is possible to accommodate the recommendations and may contact you to discuss this in more detail.

Staffordshire University is committed to providing equality of opportunity for disabled students and where possible all reasonable support will be provided to enable completion of your chosen course.

### **What happens once my health screening form has been completed?**

Once you have been passed as 'Fit for Course' and any adjustments/recommendations have been agreed by the University, and you have met any other conditions of your offer, you will receive an email inviting you to complete online enrolment. You are then ready to start your course!

## IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

### **What is the immunisation programme?**

A large part of your course involves practice learning in a diverse range of clinical work-based environments. In accordance with the current Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) guidance and recommendations, you should protect patients, colleagues, and yourself by being immunised against serious communicable diseases.

### **What vaccinations are required?**

This will depend on what course you are on. To see which vaccinations are required for your course please view the information below.

### **Do I need to have all my vaccinations before I start my course?**

No, any vaccinations you require will be given during the initial months of your course by our occupational health provider.

### **How do I know which vaccinations I need?**

At the start of your course, you will be given an immunisation review appointment with our student occupational health provider, Optima Health. This will enable them to ascertain what vaccinations you may already have had and which you still require. If you did not provide evidence of your immunisation history when you completed the online health screening, you should bring it with you to this appointment.

### **What is acceptable evidence of my immunisation history?**

This can be a letter or print out from your GP surgery, an immunisation/travel card, blood test results or your Personal Child Health Record 'Red Book'. If you are already in employment in a health or social care setting you should approach your employer's occupational health provider to request evidence.

### **What happens if I did not have all my childhood immunisations?**

Any outstanding or due vaccinations will be provided by Optima Health; alternatively, you may wish to contact your GP surgery and arrange for these but please ensure you do this as soon as possible as some live vaccinations cannot be given at the same time or within a certain number of weeks of another vaccination.

### **Do I need to prepare for my immunisation review appointment?**

You must bring Photo ID, e.g., your Student ID Card or your passport or driving licence. If you have not already sent evidence of your immunisation history to Optima Health, you must bring it to this appointment. Please ensure you wear a short sleeve top to enable the nurse to access your upper arm for vaccinations and/or blood tests and it is important that you have plenty to eat and drink before attending. Please do tell the nurse if you are anxious or have a needle phobia.

### **Why do I need a blood test?**

You may require a blood test to check immunity levels if you have not been able to provide evidence of previous immunisations.

All students undertaking Exposure Prone Procedures (EPP), such as midwives, operating department practice and paramedics are required to undergo testing to show that they are not carriers of any blood borne viruses. A blood test will be taken at the immunisation review appointment which will check if you have been exposed to Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV. These are all serious but relatively uncommon viral infections and are all transmitted by blood and bodily fluids. If you are found to be a carrier of any of these infections, you will be referred to the Occupational Health Physician for further advice.

### **How do I arrange any vaccinations I need?**

Optima Health will arrange for you to have any vaccinations you need to ensure you are safe to engage with your practice learning placements. A schedule of occupational health clinics has been set up for your course and, once your immunisation review has been completed, you will receive ongoing emails inviting you to attend occupational health clinic appointments to complete the required vaccinations.

### **What happens if I need to rearrange an appointment?**

Optima Health will email you directly with details of any required appointments, so please ensure you are regularly checking your emails. If you do need to rearrange an appointment you must contact Optima Health (01327 810794/[team8@optimahealth.co.uk](mailto:team8@optimahealth.co.uk)) **at least 48** hours before your appointment is due to take place to avoid the University being notified of your non-attendance.

### **What happens if I miss an appointment?**

Your Course Team will be notified if you miss an occupational health appointment. It is your responsibility to ensure that you attend on the appointed date and time. **Failure to attend may result in you being withdrawn from attending practice learning placements which may affect your ability to successfully complete your course.**

### **What happens if I do not have all my immunisations?**

This may mean that Optima Health will not be able to confirm you are suitably protected for your clinical practice placements. However, if you are unable to have live vaccines (MMR, VZV and BCG) because of pregnancy, certain types of medication or health conditions Optima Health will review your health clearance to assess whether adjustments can be made so that you can continue on your course of study.

### **Where can I find more information concerning immunisations?**

If you require further information, please consult the [Immunisation against infectious diseases \(The Green Book\)](#).

We hope you have found this information helpful. If you have any other questions, please contact the Practice Learning Hub ([PLH@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:PLH@staffs.ac.uk)).

# VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR NURSING STUDENTS



SCHOOL OF HEALTH,  
EDUCATION, POLICING  
AND SCIENCES

Before you can attend your clinical placements you must have reached the stage indicated below in your immunisation programme.

On campus clinics are arranged by the University with Optima Health to enable you to attend the necessary appointments. **You must attend ALL appointments requested by Optima Health to ensure you complete the full immunisation programme. Failure to do so will affect you being able to complete your placements.**

## NORMAL TIMELINE FOR FULL IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME\*

Initial Immunisation  
Review Appointment

Takes place around welcome week:

- Immunisation history is reviewed
- Check made for BCG scar (blood test/TB questionnaire taken if not visible)
- Initial blood tests taken
- 1<sup>st</sup> Hepatitis B vaccination
- Pertussis (whooping cough) vaccination – Child nursing only
- 2nd Hepatitis B vaccination
- Diphtheria/Tetanus/Polio (DTP) vaccination
- 1<sup>st</sup> Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR) vaccination
- 1<sup>st</sup> Chickenpox (Varicella Zoster Virus/VZV) vaccination
- BCG vaccination (against Tuberculosis)

4 Weeks Later

4 Weeks Later

- 3rd Hepatitis B vaccination
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR) vaccination
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Chickenpox (Varicella Zoster Virus/VZV) vaccination

-----Student cleared for 1<sup>st</sup> placement period -----

6-12 Weeks Later

- Final Blood test taken to test for immunity to Hepatitis B

1 Week Later

- Hep B blood test results checked
- **if high immunity can proceed to placement**
- **if low immunity a Hep B booster will be given**
- **if no immunity shown, a repeat course of 3 x Hep B vaccinations will be required, followed by a further blood test**

**Failure to attend Occupational Health appointments may prevent you from attending placements**

If you require further information, please consult the [Immunisation against infectious disease \(The GreenBook\)](#).

\* Depending on your immunisation history, you may not be asked to attend all appointments shown above

## VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MIDWIFERY & OPERATING DEPARTMENT PRACTICE STUDENTS



SCHOOL OF HEALTH,  
EDUCATION, POLICING  
AND SCIENCES

Before you can attend your clinical placements you must have reached the stage indicated below in your immunisation programme.

On campus clinics are arranged by the University with Optima Health to enable you to attend the necessary appointments. **You must attend ALL appointments requested by Optima Health to ensure you complete the full immunisation programme. Failure to do so will affect you being able to complete your placements.**

### NORMAL TIMELINE FOR FULL IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME\*

Takes place around welcome week:

Initial Immunisation  
Review Appointment

- Immunisation history is reviewed
- Check made for BCG scar (blood test/TB questionnaire taken if not visible)
- Initial blood tests taken (*to include check for Exposure Prone Procedures clearance (EPP) – HIV Antigen, Hepatitis C Antibody, Hepatitis B Surface Antigen*)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Hepatitis B vaccination
- Pertussis vaccination (midwifery only)

4 Weeks Later

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Hepatitis B vaccination
- Diphtheria/Tetanus/Polio (DTP) vaccination
- 1<sup>st</sup> Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR) vaccination
- 1<sup>st</sup> Chickenpox (Varicella Zoster Virus/VZV) vaccination
- BCG vaccination (against Tuberculosis)

4 Weeks Later

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Hepatitis B vaccination
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR) vaccination
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Chickenpox (Varicella Zoster Virus/VZV) vaccination

#### Students cleared for 1<sup>st</sup> placement period

6-12 weeks Later

- Final Blood test taken to test for immunity to Hepatitis B

1 Week Later

- Hep B blood test results checked
- **if high immunity no further appointments needed**
- **if low immunity a Hep B booster will be required**
- **if no immunity shown, a repeat course of 3 x Hep B vaccinations will be required, followed by a further blood test**

**Failure to attend Occupational Health appointments may prevent you from attending placements**

If you require further information, please consult the [Immunisation against infectious diseases \(The Green Book\)](#).

\* Depending on your existing immunisation history, you may not be asked to attend all appointments shown above

# VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PARAMEDIC SCIENCE STUDENTS



SCHOOL OF HEALTH,  
EDUCATION, POLICING  
AND SCIENCES

Before you can attend your clinical placements you must have reached the stage indicated below in your immunisation programme.

On campus clinics are arranged by the University with Optima Health to enable you to attend the necessary appointments. **You must attend ALL appointments requested by Optima Health to ensure you complete the full immunisation programme. Failure to do so will affect you being able to complete your placements.**

## NORMAL TIMELINE FOR FULL IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME\*

Initial Immunisation  
Review Appointment

Takes place around welcome week:

- Immunisation history is reviewed
- Check made for BCG scar (blood test/TB questionnaire taken if not visible)
- Initial blood tests taken (*to include check for ExposureProne Procedures clearance (EPP) –HIV Antigen, Hepatitis C Antibody, Hepatitis B Surface Antigen*)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Hepatitis B & Pertussis vaccination

4 Weeks Later

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Hepatitis B vaccination
- Diphtheria/Tetanus/Polio (DTP) vaccination
- 1<sup>st</sup> Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR) vaccination
- 1<sup>st</sup> Chickenpox (Varicella Zoster Virus/VZV) vaccination
- BCG vaccination (against Tuberculosis)

4 Weeks Later

- 3rd Hepatitis B vaccination
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR) vaccination
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Chickenpox (Varicella Zoster Virus/VZV) vaccination

4 – 12 Weeks Later

- Final Blood test taken to test for immunity to Hepatitis B

1 Week Later

- Hep B blood test results checked
- **if high immunity can proceed to placement**
- **if low immunity a Hep B booster will be given**
- **if no immunity shown, a repeat course of 3 x Hep B vaccinations will be required, followed by a further blood test**

Student cleared for 1<sup>st</sup> placement period

**Failure to attend Occupational Health appointments may prevent you from attending placements**

If you require further information, please consult [Immunisation against infectious disease \(The Green Book\)](#).

\* Depending on your existing immunisation history, you may not be asked to attend all the appointments shown above