

**SWANSEA UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF HUMAN & HEALTH SCIENCES**

**Policy for the Screening for and Protection of Students in relation to  
Communicable Diseases**

**This policy applies to all applicants to and students of Pre-Qualifying Professional Programmes offered within the College of Human and Health Sciences (CHHS).**

This policy is aimed at protecting students, vulnerable patients and colleagues from preventable communicable diseases.

The Welsh Government funds many health care related professional programmes and recommends that all students have a positive vaccination status prior to placement exposure. This is also reflected in the guidance offered by the 'Green Book' (Department of Health; 2013), which states that:

***“Any vaccine-preventable disease that is transmissible from person to person poses a risk to both healthcare professionals and their patients. All Healthcare workers have a duty of care towards their patients which includes taking reasonable precautions to protect them from communicable diseases.***

***Immunisation of healthcare and laboratory workers may therefore:***

- ***protect the individual and their family from an occupationally-acquired infection***
- ***protect patients and service users, including vulnerable patients who may not respond well to their own immunisation***
- ***protect other healthcare and laboratory staff***
- ***allow for the efficient running of services without disruption. (Chapter 12)”***

Placement learning opportunities are a key aspect of a number of the professional programmes offered within the College and in many placements, students will be involved in direct patient care. Where this is the case, the Green Book (Department of Health 2013) indicates that all students should be up to date with their routine immunisations and that selected vaccinations should be offered where there may be contact with infectious patients, direct contact with patient's blood or blood stained body fluids, or if the student is themselves susceptible to a particular communicable disease.

The College uses a range of placements in a range of settings and placement providers require assurance that students meet their practice standards/policies with regard to health and safety. As such, the College has an obligation to ensure that students' health status is in compliance with the requirements of the Department of Health, partner Health Boards, NHS Trusts and other health and social care placement settings.

The screening of immune status and where appropriate vaccination is therefore strongly recommended as a means to protect those students that will undertake clinical or practice placements as part of their programme of study within the College of Human and Health Sciences.

In order to accord with these requirements, applicants for those programmes with opportunities for placement learning, dissection or acupuncture should note the following:

- All new students are required to undertake a pre-enrolment health screening through the University's Occupational Health department. Where a student has been offered a place through clearing, screening will take place at the earliest opportunity after enrolment and prior to the commencement of any placement.
- Screening will involve a risk assessment that takes into account their programme requirements.
- Screening may also involve a blood and/or skin test and will identify the applicant's immunity/vaccination status for a range of communicable diseases. However, where proof of immunity/vaccination status can be provided this may be acceptable.
- Should the applicant be found to be requiring vaccination, their individual requirement will be discussed with them and with the applicant's consent, vaccination will be undertaken

Applicants/ students that refuse to undertake screening and cannot provide evidence of immunity will be considered at the College Fitness to Practice and Professional Suitability panel. The Fitness to Practice procedures can be found at;

<http://www.swansea.ac.uk/academic-services/academic-guide/conduct-and-complaints/fitness-to-practise/>

### Post-exposure management

Specific additional measures may sometimes be required following an incident where exposure to an infected individual, pathogen or contaminated instrument occurs. Should this happen, students are advised to inform their mentor immediately.

Following any exposure, the student and mentor should then:

- Follow the National Model Policies for Infection Prevention and Control, Part 1: Standard infection Control Precautions (Public Health Wales, 2014), available at: [http://www2.nphs.wales.nhs.uk:8080/WHAIPDocs.nsf/3dc04669c9e1eaa880257062003b246b/24cf7af1a131dd6f80257abd0048f3a1/\\$FILE/SICPS\\_FinalV2\\_Aug\\_14.pdf](http://www2.nphs.wales.nhs.uk:8080/WHAIPDocs.nsf/3dc04669c9e1eaa880257062003b246b/24cf7af1a131dd6f80257abd0048f3a1/$FILE/SICPS_FinalV2_Aug_14.pdf)
- Seek advice from the Health Board occupational health department if available or from the local microbiologist or other appropriate consultant.
- Take any recommended actions. This may involve attendance at the nearest Emergency Department, or Minor Injuries Unit in the first instance.
- Follow up care and advice should be sought from the Health Board occupational health department
- Inform Swansea University occupational health department of the nature of the exposure, actions taken and any follow up care advised.

This policy may be reviewed at any time, should any of the guidance be changed or updated.

Policy informed by:	Policy written by	Policy approved at:	Review date:
	Mary Paget 2011	CHHS Land T Committee	Autumn 2013
	Updated; Mary Paget September 2013	CHHS L&T Committee Sept 2013	Autumn 2015

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<p>HEOPS Nursing Student Fitness Standards (2015)</p> <p>Nursing and Midwifery Council Guidance on Character and Health Decision Making (October 2015)</p> <p>'The Green Book' – information for public health professionals on immunisation. Chapter 12 (December 2013)</p> <p>HEOPS Paramedic Student Fitness (2015)</p>	Updated; Mary Paget July 2017		Summer 2019