

Vaccination requirements

For volunteers engaged with Queensland Health

1 July 2016

From 1 July 2016, a change to Queensland Health policy will require volunteers in certain areas to provide documentary evidence they have been vaccinated for the vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) of measles, mumps, rubella, varicella and pertussis.

Who does the policy apply to?

Employees, contractors, students and volunteers to be engaged in roles where there is contact that would allow transmission of a VPD via respiratory means.

What is the policy change?

Prior to engagement new volunteers need to provide:

- documentary evidence of vaccination for the diseases measles, mumps, rubella, varicella and pertussis or
- documentary evidence they are not susceptible to these diseases.

It will also be a condition of ongoing engagement to supply documentary evidence of follow up vaccinations and boosters for these diseases.

The current requirement in relation to hepatitis B will continue has not changed.

Are you impacted?

Volunteers engaged to work with Queensland Health prior to 1 July 2016 will not be affected.

New volunteers engaged on or after 1 July 2016, who may volunteer in an area where there is contact that would allow transmission of these diseases via respiratory means, will be subject to the policy.

Evidence

Where vaccination for the diseases has occurred but no documentary evidence is available, a doctor or immunisation provider can review vaccination records or perform serology testing to provide documentary evidence of vaccinations (this would be at the volunteer's cost).

If documentary evidence cannot be provided and a vaccination is required, a doctor or immunisation provider can administer vaccinations to meet the policy requirement.

What do you need to do?

Before a volunteer starts with Queensland Health they will be required to provide documentary evidence of vaccinations for these diseases.

You can provide this information by completing the relevant form which outlines what is required as documentary evidence.

The *Vaccine preventable diseases evidence form – worker* and *Vaccine preventable diseases evidence form – doctor* are available at www.health.qld.gov.au/employment/work-for-us/dept-of-health/pre-employment/vaccinations

More information

The hospital and health service volunteer coordinator will be able to provide more information.

Resources

To view HR Policy B1 *Recruitment and selection* (QH-POL-212:2014) please refer to: www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/policies-standards/doh-policy/

To view the Health Service Directive *Vaccine Preventable Disease Screening for Contractors, Students and Volunteers* please refer to: www.health.qld.gov.au/directives/docs/hsd/qh-hsd-047.pdf

For further information on the requirements please refer to: www.health.qld.gov.au/employment/work-for-us/dept-of-health/pre-employment/vaccinations

For further reading on vaccination and immunisation please refer to:

- www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/immunisation/benefits/index.html
- <http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/>