

Appendix 10

Fact Sheet: Vaccination requirements for volunteers

In accordance with Queensland Health policy, volunteers in certain roles are required to:

- provide documentary evidence of vaccination or non-susceptibility to measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, and hepatitis B
- have received one dose of pertussis containing vaccine within the last 10 years.

Who does the policy apply to?

The requirements for measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, pertussis and hepatitis B apply to employees, Contractors, students and volunteers to be engaged in roles where there is:

- face-to-face or direct physical contact with patients, or
- the normal work location is in a clinical area, or
- there will be frequent attendance in clinical areas; and/or
- possible contact with blood, body substances and/or equipment contaminated with these.

What is the requirement?

Prior to engagement new volunteers will be required to provide:

1. documentary evidence of vaccination for pertussis within the last 10 years, and
2. documentary evidence they are either vaccinated for or not susceptible to measles, mumps, rubella, varicella and hepatitis B.

It is important to note that the only acceptable evidence for pertussis is evidence of vaccination within the last 10 years.

It will also be a condition of ongoing engagement to supply documentary evidence of follow up vaccinations and boosters for these diseases, as required, for the specified vaccine preventable diseases.

Accelerated schedules of hepatitis B vaccination are not routinely recommended and may require a fourth dose to complete.

Evidence

Volunteers should check with their volunteer coordinator about the process for providing documentary evidence of vaccination or non-susceptibility to these diseases. This evidence must be provided to the volunteer coordinator.

Acceptable evidence of vaccination, or confirmation that a person is not susceptible to the vaccine preventable diseases, includes:

- documentary evidence of vaccination that may include a vaccine record book, a vaccine record card, an immunisation history statement from your regular healthcare provider or from the Australian Immunisation Register.
- where vaccination has occurred, but no documentary evidence is available, a doctor or immunisation provider can review vaccination records or perform serology testing, where appropriate, to provide documentary evidence of vaccinations (this would be at the Volunteer's cost). Serology testing is not applicable for pertussis.
- if documentary evidence cannot be provided and a vaccination is required, a doctor or immunisation provider can administer vaccinations.

For further information about acceptable forms of evidence, please see
<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/employment/work-for-us/dept-of-health/pre-employment/vaccinations/providing-evidence>

Forms outlining the necessary evidence are available on the Queensland Health website.

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 relevant policies and further information on the requirement please refer to:

Health Service Directive Vaccine Preventable Disease Screening for Contractors, Students and Volunteers

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/directives/docs/hsd/qh-hsd-047.pdf>

<https://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:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/immunisation/benefits/index.html>

<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation>