

Immune Status Policy

International Students - Confidential



The Health and Fitness Curriculum Area at Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) is committed to have in place appropriate risk management procedures which support an individual's right to a safe and healthy work environment. This policy has been developed to meet the requirements of the different Health Services policies on Blood Borne Viruses and Standard Blood and Body Fluid Precautions, which all students are required to familiarise themselves with.

All prospective students will be required to provide serology evidence of their immune status, and sign the attached Immune Status Declaration, and Serology Record document.

The Immune Status declaration requires a prospective student to provide evidence of their immune status through serology screening (**blood test**) for the following: Hepatitis A & B, Measles, Varicella (Chicken Pox), Rubella, and Tuberculosis (TB).

Failure to present the documentation will preclude you from participation in clinical practice.

If laboratory tests indicate that a prospective student is **not** immune to Hepatitis A & B, Measles, Varicella (Chicken Pox), Rubella, and Tuberculosis (TB), they need to arrange vaccination.

If a prospective student decides against vaccination, they need to be aware that this decision could limit their access to certain clinical practice areas. The clinical practice areas that currently restrict access to non immunised health care providers are those involving children, pregnant women, and the immune suppressed. This may impact your ability to meet competency as per the Nursing Council of New Zealand requirements for Registered Nurse scope of practice.

All students will be required to sign the declaration indicating their agreement to work within the Immune Status Policy of the Health and Fitness Curriculum Area. They will also agree to abide by the policies and procedures of each clinical placement area in relation to Blood Borne Viruses and Standard Blood and Body Fluid Precautions (Universal Precautions).

Protection against Hepatitis A & B, and Tetanus is **strongly** recommended, as is a booster vaccination every ten years for Pertussis (Whooping Cough).

It is also recommended that students in clinical placement during the influenza season (1st May to 30th September) be vaccinated against influenza, as they pose a risk to immune compromised persons such as pregnant women, the elderly, and persons with chronic heart or lung diseases.

All serology tests and vaccinations will be at the prospective student's **own expense**.

Policy Name:	Date Approved:	Date for Review:
Immune Status Policy	June 2021	August 2022

Serology Screening Declaration

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Please complete and sign this document and return to international@nmit.ac.nz before the start of your programme. Failure to present documentation will prevent you from participating in clinical practice.

1 I have undertaken serology screening Yes

Date: _____

I have provided evidence of my immune status, as attached Yes

No

Rationale for not attaching evidence:

AND

2 I agree to complete a vaccination course (where laboratory tests indicate necessity) at my own expense. I will provide evidence of my serology results to the Clinical Coordinator for the Health and Fitness Curriculum Area. Yes

OR

3 I have decided against vaccination. I accept the responsibility for non-vaccination and understand the implications of this choice. Yes

I agree to work within the Immune Status Policy of the Health and Fitness Curriculum Area at NMIT. I acknowledge I fully understand the risk to myself, and the implications of non-vaccination if I am exposed to contaminated body fluids during the course of my programme. I understand that I am required to work within the policies and procedures of each clinical placement related to Blood Borne Viruses and Standard Blood and Body Fluid Precautions (Universal Precautions).

Name

Signature

Date of Birth

Date

Privacy Act 2020

This information and opinion provided in this report constitute 'personal information' in terms of the Privacy Act 2020. The person about whom this information and opinion are provided (the applicant) is entitled to have access to this report under Information privacy principle 6 (IPP6) and to seek correction of this report under IPP7. Information or opinion provided in this report may be disclosed under IPP11 to the applicant and members of the Selection Committee.

Serology Record

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Pre-entry requirement to the Certificate in Nursing (CAP) Programme - **required prior to programme commencement. Please complete and sign this document and return to international@nmit.ac.nz before the start of your programme.** Failure to present documentation will prevent you from participating in clinical practice.

Antibody Status (Documents attached - Please tick) (✓)	
Varicella	
Measles	
Rubella	
Hepatitis A	
Hepatitis B	
Tuberculosis (TB)	
Exposure or diagnosed with TB (please circle)	Yes/No/Unsure
BCG vaccinated (please circle)	Yes/No/Unsure
Quantiferon Gold blood test (date completed)	Result Attached (please tick)

Protection against Hepatitis A and Tetanus is **strongly** recommended, as is a booster vaccination every ten years for Pertussis (Whooping Cough).

Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)

Screening for MRSA **will be undertaken in class**. Screening for MRSA will be at the student's **own expense** (MRSA current screening cost is approximately \$71.00 for 2 swabs). **International Students** are strongly advised to undertake MRSA screening (nares, peri anal, open wounds, sores or skin rashes), prior to arrival in New Zealand.

It is also recommended that students in clinical placement during the influenza season (1st May to 30th September) be vaccinated against influenza, as they pose a risk to immune compromised persons such as pregnant women, the elderly and persons with chronic heart or lung diseases.

All serology tests and vaccinations will be at the prospective student's **own expense**.

Name	<input type="text"/>
Signature of applicant	<input type="text"/>
Date	<input type="text"/>

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