

## Vaccine History Check and Serology Testing

### What is a Vaccine History Check?

A vaccine history check is for nursing, some health science and teaching students who need to have vaccines administered and signed off before they go out on a Work Integrated Learning (WIL) placement.

It is also sometimes referred to as a risk assessment, as we are assessing the risks to you working in an environment where you may be exposed to, or pass on, contagious illnesses. To mitigate (reduce) these risks, your school has recommended a series of vaccines.

Your school will give you a form for your health professional to sign off. This is usually called a Student Vaccination Record (SVR).

### How do I make an appointment for a vaccine history check?

The nurses and doctors at the ECU Health Service can complete your vaccine history check at Joondalup and Mount Lawley, and from 2026, the ECU City Campus.

An appointment is essential as a vaccine history check can take up to **one hour**. Appointments can only be made by calling us or coming to see us in person. **These cannot be booked online** as they require a longer appointment and will be with both a nurse and a doctor.

A medical receptionist will book you two appointments for the same day, one after the other.

#### Joondalup Campus:

1. Your first appointment will be booked with the nurse for 30 minutes.
2. Your second appointment will be booked with the doctor for 15 minutes.

For example, your appointment may be booked:

- With the nurse at 10.00am for 30 minutes; then
- With the doctor at 10.30.

It is very common to require vaccines during this appointment so you should be prepared.

If you need any vaccines on the day, you will return to the nurse after seeing the doctor. You will then be required to wait 15 minutes after vaccination to be monitored for any side effects.

Therefore, we ask you to allow for one hour / 60 minutes for your appointment.

**It is not advisable to try and squeeze in this appointment between classes or work commitments.**

### Keeping your appointment

You will receive a text message reminder 24 hours before your appointment.

The text message is for the doctor's appointment only (your second appointment).

**Please ensure you arrive on time for your nurse appointment (the first appointment) 30 minutes before the doctor's appointment.**

Arriving late for your first appointment with the nurse could mean you will not be seen, and you may have to reschedule your appointment for another day.

We recommend you book your vaccine history check on a day and at a time when you do not have to get to classes or work afterwards. Sometimes delays in being seen by the nurse and/or doctor may result in you being late for class or having to leave your appointment before you are seen.

### Cancelling or Missed Appointments

We are a very busy service and ask that if you cannot attend your appointment or think you will be late - please let us know as soon as you can so we can give the appointment to someone else in need.

If you do not arrive for your appointment and have not given us at least two hours' notice, you will be charged a \$45 missed appointment fee.

You will not be able to book another appointment with us until this has been paid. This fee is not covered by Medicare or OSHC.

## Important information for the day of your appointment

### 1. Arrive on time for your appointment with the nurse (the first appointment)

Arriving late will mean you need to rebook for another day. We are often booked three weeks in advance due to the number of students we are assisting.

Any delays you cause by arriving late or not having the correct paperwork with you may mean you have to go away and return or re-book.

### 2. Bring your school paperwork (Student Vaccination Record)

This is issued by your school and can be printed from your CANVAS account. We cannot reprint it for you.

Make sure your Name, Student Number and Date of Birth are entered on the form. We will not do this for you.

### 3. Proof of any previous vaccines or serology

Previous vaccine records must be translated into English and Certified if from overseas, including:

- Evidence of childhood vaccines
- COVID-19 vaccines
- Most recent influenza ('flu) vaccine
- Serology/swabs you may have done recently, i.e., QuantiFERON Gold, Hepatitis B surface antibody (HBsAb), MRSA etc

Please note, pictures on your phone and paperwork that do not contain information like your name, date of birth, information of the hospital, clinic or official stamps for certification will not be accepted as proof of vaccination.

## Information about billing or rebates

Students who hold a Medicare Card will be bulk billed for the GP appointment.

Students who have Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) with a partner fund will have their account sent to their fund for payment.

Students with a non-partner OSHC fund or Visitors insurance will be charged a fee for seeing the GP. This can be claimed back from your fund.

## There are private fees for vaccines for all patients.

If you need any information regarding rebates from your health insurance i.e., Medibank, BUPA etc, for blood test and vaccines, please contact your provider directly.

A list of our fees and charges including vaccines can be obtained from our receptionists.

## How does the appointment work?

You will see the nurse first for approximately 30 minutes. The nurse will discuss what serology / vaccines you will need based on the medical history you provide.

You will be given advice on where you can go for your testing, when to return for your results and how we can help you fill out your paperwork.

When you have finished with the nurse, you will be seen by the doctor who will provide you with the pathology request form to have your blood and other tests done.

The doctor might decide you can have some vaccines on the day. The most common vaccines given on your first appointment are the Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DTP vaccine), and the Influenza vaccine.

## After your appointment with us

After you have seen the nurse and doctor, and possibly the nurse again - check out at our reception desk and pay for any vaccines (and doctor if your insurance is not one of our partner funds).

### Make an appointment to return to see the doctor and nurse in one week to be given your results.

We recommend doing this before you leave to avoid delays as appointments book up quickly and you may have to wait longer than one week to be seen again for your results.

Then, have your blood taken for serology, and MRSA swabs if needed, and return to us at the time of your follow up appointment to receive your results. If you need to reschedule the follow up appointment, please call us to help you do this.

Remember – not attending a missed appointment will result in a missed appointment fee of \$45.

## Where do I go to do my blood test?

Once the doctor has given you a pathology request form you can go and get your blood tests done at a Pathology Collection Centre.

These tests are not done at ECU. We will provide you with a map of some local services close to the University, alternatively, you can go somewhere that is more convenient for you.

Your request form will look similar to this image.

The pathology request forms we commonly use are for Clinipath, Australian Clinical Labs or Western Diagnostics. You can take this form to any pathology collection centre in Australia. For example, if the doctor has given you a form for Clinipath but you live closer to an Australian Clinical Labs or Western Diagnostics collection centre, you can take the form there and they will be accepted, and they will send us the results.

Your name, date of birth and address will be on the pathology request form. Keep this safe as reissuing the form will take time.

Each laboratory is a private business and therefore have their own set of fees. You can usually expect an invoice in the mail after you have taken the tests.

If you have an OSHC or an Australian Medicare Card, be sure to take them with you and show them at the time of collection.

Your results will take approximately one week to return to the ECU Health Service.

## Your second appointment – for results

When you return for your results, we will be able to tell you what vaccines you need and commence signing off your SVR.

You may need to return for repeat vaccinations if you need more than one dose. You will be advised of this on the day and given a schedule by the nurse.

The most common vaccines that need repeat doses are MMR (Measles, Mumps & Rubella), Varicella (Chicken Pox) and Hepatitis B.

If you have questions regarding your paperwork and how or when it needs to be uploaded, please ask your unit co-ordinator for advice.

## Vaccine information

### *Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DTP)*

If you do not have any proof of having this vaccine in the last ten years you can have it on the day of your vaccine history check.

There is no serology testing for these diseases.

This vaccine is a single dose vaccine that is updated every ten years.

A fee is payable to our reception staff for the DTP Vaccine. The current fee for one dose is \$40.

### *Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)*

If you do not have proof of two doses, you must have serology to test your immunity against MMR.

If the serology shows you are not immune to all three diseases, then you must have two doses of the MMR vaccine four weeks apart.

For example, if you are immune to Measles and Rubella but not immune to Mumps, you will still be required to have two doses of the MMR Vaccine.

If you show immunity for all three diseases, you do not need to have any vaccines, and your Student Vaccination Record (SVR) can be signed off.

The MMR vaccine cannot be given separately. The vaccine comes as a combined dose in powder form to be diluted.

A fee is payable to our reception staff for each dose. The current fee for one dose is \$45.00.

### Varicella (Chicken Pox)

If you do not have proof of two doses, you must have serology to test your immunity against Chicken Pox (Varicella).

If the serology shows you are not immune, then you must have two doses of the varicella vaccine, four weeks apart.

If you show immunity, you do not need to have any vaccines, and your SVR can be signed off.

A fee is payable to our reception staff for each dose. The current fee for one dose is \$65.00.

### Hepatitis B

The serology for immunity against Hepatitis B is mandatory, even if you have had vaccines for Hepatitis B before. This is to ensure you have good coverage against the disease.

If you show immunity, you do not need to have any vaccines, and your SVR can be signed off.

If you don't show immunity, you will need to have the Hepatitis B vaccine. This could be one, two, three, or more doses, depending on how your body responds.

If you are required to have the Hepatitis B vaccine, a fee is payable to our reception staff for each dose.

The current fee for one dose is \$35.00.

### Influenza

The influenza (or 'Flu) vaccine is given once a year and is a seasonal vaccine only. This means the vaccine is not available all year round.

The 'Flu vaccine typically becomes available towards the end of March and expires around December of the same year.

The nurse will discuss what is available for you during your appointment.

There is a one-off fee for the 'Flu vaccine payable to our reception staff.

The current fee for the 'Flu vaccine is \$20.00.

### Quanti-FERON Gold Testing

This test is mandatory, even if you have had vaccines for tuberculosis before.

This is not a serology to show immunity. This is a test to check for latent ('dead') TB.

Your result will be either negative or positive.

If you're result is negative, you don't need any further action and can have you SVR signed off.

If your result is positive, there are some health department guidelines we need to follow to ensure you can be ready for your future placements. This will be discussed with you if needed.

### Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) Screening

In addition to serology testing and mandatory vaccines, if you have previously worked or been a patient, in a health care facility, including an aged care facility, in the last 12 months, anywhere outside of Western Australia, you will also need to be tested for Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA).

This nose, throat and sometimes hand swab can also be carried out when having your blood taken.

### More information

If you have any other questions, be sure to write them down and bring them with you to your appointment and our team will do their best to assist you.

### Notes

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#### Contact Details

##### Joondalup Campus

Telephone: 08 6304 5618

Building 6.230

##### Mount Lawley Campus

Telephone: 08 6304 6814

Building 8.109