

Immunity Status – Blood test information



For Occupational Therapy students

Otago Polytechnic is required by the agencies/practitioners that offer clinical/fieldwork placements to hold documentary evidence (i.e. a copy of laboratory results) of your immune status for certain diseases before the commencement of programmes. This information will be shared as necessary with clinical partners. The infectious diseases which we are required to hold immune status information on are: Varicella, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Hepatitis B and Tuberculosis.

Immune status can only be ascertained by a **blood test**. To do this required testing, please take the attached blood test form to a Laboratory Collection centre in your area (details below). Costs for the tests are the responsibility of the student. As this is a course-related cost, [Studylink](#) may be able to assist through use of a student loan for course-related costs. The results of the tests will be sent directly to the Nurse at Otago Polytechnic Student Health. She will inform the school of your immune status and follow up with you if there are any concerns about your results.

The tests are a requirement of entry to the programme and you must have completed them **by the 5 February, 2021**. Please ensure you complete these tests once you have accepted your place on the programme. Failure to provide your immunity status could potentially impact on your ability to attend to fieldwork.

Not immune

If you are not immune to any of the tested diseases, the nurse at Student Health will contact you and provide advice regarding vaccination. Students who are not immune to these diseases may not be permitted to access some clinical areas and/or may require treatment and clearance before being able to access some clinical areas. **This could affect your progress through the programme.** You may choose to be vaccinated. Vaccination is recommended to protect both you and your future clients. If you choose this option then you will need to provide Student Health with evidence of the vaccine you have had and the date it was given. If you are **NOT** immune and if you choose not to be vaccinated you will be contacted by either the Fieldwork Coordinator (Narinder.Verma@op.ac.nz) or the Dunedin Bachelors Team Lead, (james.sunderland@op.ac.nz) or Hamilton Bachelors Team Lead (Kim.Reay@op.ac.nz) to discuss any possible impact on your progression through the programme and subsequent registration.

Immunisation History

Additionally, please provide the Otago Polytechnic Student Health Nurse, Helen Munro, with a **copy of your immunisation record**. To do this, please phone your Doctor's office and ask them to email a copy to you then forward this on to Helen at studenthealth@op.ac.nz with the subject line: **Immune status OCC 2021**. We need this evidence in order to gain a full picture of your immunity and it will enable Student Health to provide specific advice if you are not immune to any diseases.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

It is strongly recommended that you are vaccinated for pertussis. Some of the agencies/practitioners offering clinical/fieldwork placements require us to keep evidence of whether students have been **vaccinated for pertussis within the last 10 years**. Please ensure this is evident in your immunisation record which you provide to the school. If you have not had a booster in the last 10 years we strongly recommend you do so.

Influenza

It is strongly recommended that students are **vaccinated annually against influenza**.