

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the ID Screening and Immunisation programme in UCC

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- Q14 [I intend to work in the US or Canada. What are the implications if I opt for the BCG vaccine?](#)
- Q15 [I wish to decline the BCG vaccine , is there anything else I need to be aware of/do?](#)
- Q16 [Is it mandatory that I receive/have received a full course of 2 doses MMR vaccine?](#)
- Q17 [Why are blood tests for IgG levels for Measles/Mumps not accepted as proof of immunity?](#)

#### ANSWERS

**A1** Students (who are not previously immune by virtue of previously naturally acquired infection) should as a minimum receive or have received completed courses of immunisations for **Hepatitis B** (3 or in some cases 4 doses), **MMR** (2 doses), **BCG** (1 dose), **Varicella** (1 or in some cases 2 doses)

**A2** **Hepatitis B** vaccination is mandatory for Healthcare Students in UCC, unless contra-indicated.

**A3** The National Immunisation guidelines for Ireland (2008) edition outlines the recommended vaccinations for people living in the Republic of Ireland. Chapter 18 details the recommendations for certain occupational groups, including Healthcare workers and Healthcare students. See website: <http://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/guidelines/immunisationguidelines.html>

**A4** The ID Screening and Immunisation Policy for UCC Healthcare Students can be downloaded from <http://www.ucc.ie/en/media/support/studenthealthservice/UCCInfectiousDiseaseScreeningImmuni sationBBVPolicy.pdf>

**A5** Healthcare students should consider availing of annual Influenza vaccination , and ensure that they have completed the primary and booster course of Tetanus vaccinations. These vaccines are available on request at the student Health department but are not included in the routine vaccination programme. An extra fee may apply for these vaccinations.

**A6** The Fee payable is 250 Euro\*, payable in full and in advance, at time of Registration. All students are liable to pay the fee, unless this fee has previously been paid to UCC by you whilst undertaking another course, or is paid by a sponsor or UCC+ ( \*Fee for BDSG DDH and DDN students is **300 Euro**)

**A7** Students are liable to pay the fee to Student Health UCC once only. If you have paid this fee to Student Health UCC previously let us know and we will confirm this in your records. You will not be liable to pay the fee to us twice.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the ID Screening and Immunisation programme in UCC

**A8** Yes, you must pay the Fee in advance. Your full immunisation and medical history will be reviewed and confirmed by the Student Health Department. You will be deemed to have cleared all the ID screening and immunisation requirements only after your Hepatitis B immunity status has been confirmed by an Identified Validated Sample (IVS) blood test **undertaken in the Student Health Department**, and written confirmation of all previous vaccinations and/or TB screening has been received. Once you have been cleared you will be entitled to a partial refund of the 250 Euro.

**A9** A sliding scale of refunds apply depending on the the number of boosters and attendances for follow up blood tests are needed. The **maximum refund payable**, in the event that only one attendance for a blood test is needed and no other immunisations or screening is required is **150 Euro. (200 Euro for BDSG DDH and DDN students)**

**A10** Refunds are payable only once your Hepatitis B immunity status has been confirmed by an Identified Validated Sample (IVS) blood test **undertaken in the Student Health Department**, and written confirmation of all previous vaccinations and/or TB screening has been received. Refunds are usually available from the end of your 1<sup>st</sup> year.

**A11** A portion of the Fee is non-refundable even if you require no further vaccination boosters or tuberculin skin tests. The **minimum amount** retained/not refunded is **100 Euro**. This covers the cost of professional time involved in reviewing your immunisation and medical history, loading this data, undertaking the IVS blood test to confirm Hepatitis B immunity, the provision of personal certificates of immunisation, immunity and ID screening clearance, and the generation of annual reports of the immunity status of all students and co-ordinating and administering the programme.

**A12** Certificates of your immunity status will be provided to you on request, once you have been deemed to have cleared the ID screening and immunisation requirements for UCC Healthcare Students.

**A13** BCG vaccination is recommended for healthcare students training in Ireland. It is not mandatory however.

**A14** BCG is not part of the routine control of Tuberculosis in some countries, including the US and Canada. If you opt for BCG vaccination this may affect the interpretation of any subsequent TB screening that you may have to undergo to work as a healthcare professional in the US or Canada

**A15** You must be screened to ensure you do not have Tuberculosis. This involves a skin test +/- a Chest X-Ray. You are advised to undergo TB screening at least every 2 years. If you subsequently decide to opt for the BCG vaccine contact the Student Health Department to arrange this. You should also be vigilant and aware of the symptoms of TB: persisting cough with night sweats, coughing up blood, weight loss. If in doubt and you are concerned, discuss with Student Health Dr.

**A16** A full course of 2 lifetime doses of MMR vaccine is recommended for healthcare students training in Ireland. It is not mandatory however. There has been a significant outbreak of Mumps in University over the past few years, with students ill and occasionally unable to complete examinations/ missing time in University.

**A 17** Interpretation of mumps and measles igG levels is problematic as **there is no IgG level that definitely indicates immunity in those vaccinated**. Evidence of immunity for individuals born in or since 1978 is **documented evidence of 2 doses of MMR** In the absence of this evidence you should be vaccinated with at least a lifetime's total of 2 doses of MMR vaccines, minimum 1 months apart.