

Vaccine History Check and Serology Testing

Frequently Asked Questions

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 ECU Health Service can complete your Vaccine History Check (VHC) at Joondalup and Mount Lawley. Enrolled nursing students at Edith Cowan College can also have their VHC completed with us.

An appointment is essential as a VHC will take approximately 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.

Our medical receptionist will book you two appointments for the same day, one after the other:

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 10.30am.

It is very common to require vaccines during this appointment.

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.

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 earlier.
- 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 VHC on a day and at a time when you do not have to get to classes or work afterwards. Sometimes delays to be 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, from 1 July 2023 you will be charged a \$40 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 Vaccine History Check paperwork**
 - 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 vaccine 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 does 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.

How does the appointment work?

- You will see the nurse FIRST for approximately 30 minutes. The nurse will discuss what serology/vaccines you need based on the evidence 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:
 - Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DTP). We use vaccines Boostrix or Adacel; and
 - the Influenza vaccine if they are available.

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 OSHC 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 disappointment as appointments book up quickly and you may have to wait longer than one week to be seen again for your results.
- Go to have your blood taken for serology and MRSA swabs if needed.
- Return to us one week after the blood tests 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 \$40.

Your second appointment – for results

- When you return for your results, we will be able to tell you what vaccines you need and sign off your SVR.
- You may have to return for repeat vaccinations if you need more than one dose. You will be advised of this on the day.
- 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.

Information about billing or rebates

- 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.

Where do I go to do my blood test?

- Your request form will look like this image.
- Your name, date of birth and address will be on the pathology request form. Keep this safe as reissuing the form will take time.
- 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.
- You can take this form to any Pathology Collection Centre in Australia.

For example, if the doctor has given you a form for PathWest but you live closer to an Australian Clinical Labs or Clinipath collection centre, you can take the form there and they will be accepted.

Vaccine information

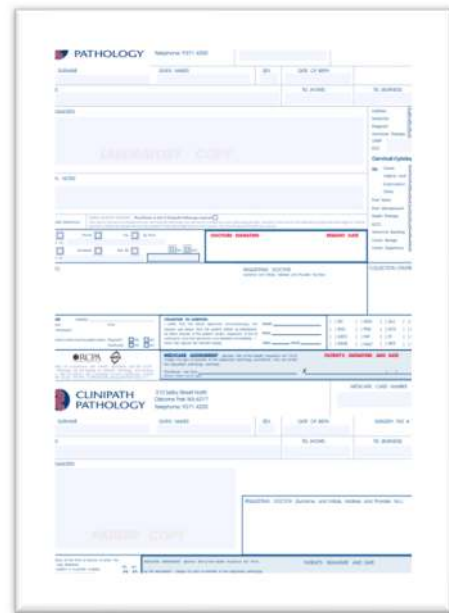
Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)

Vaccines available: Priorix or MMR II

- 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.
- A fee is payable to our reception staff for each dose.
- The MMR vaccine cannot be given separately. The vaccine comes as a combined dose in powder form to be diluted.



Varicella (Chicken Pox)

Vaccines available: Varilrix or Varivax

- 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.

Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis

Vaccines available: Boostrix or Adacel

- 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.

Hepatitis B

Vaccines available: Engerix B or H-B-Vax II

- 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 any immunity, you will have to have the Hepatitis B vaccine. This could be one to three or more doses.
- The number of vaccines you require is dependent on the proof you provide of previous doses of this vaccine. This will be explained to you by the doctor and nurse when we see you for your results.
- If you are required to have the Hepatitis vaccine, a fee is payable to our reception staff for each dose.

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

Quanti-FERON Gold Testing

Testing for latent tuberculosis (TB)

- 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 your 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.

Appointment bookings

Your Vaccine History Check appointments are:

First Appointment

Day (M-F) _____

Date _____

Time _____ AM PM

Nurse _____

Doctor _____

Location JOONDALUP MT LAWLEY

Follow up- for results and vaccines

Day (M-F) _____

Date _____

Time _____ AM PM

Nurse _____

Doctor _____

Location JOONDALUP MT LAWLEY

Second follow up appointment – for vaccines

Day (M-F) _____

Date _____

Time _____ AM PM

Nurse _____

Doctor _____

Location JOONDALUP MT LAWLEY

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.

Health Services – Joondalup, Building 6, Room 230

Telephone: 08 6304 5618

Keep this information safe

We recommend keeping this information safe, such as with your Vaccine History Check paperwork as you will need it throughout your course.