

# Declaration of Health

The University of Reading MPharm Pharmacy programmes involve working closely with both patients and members of the public.

To go on the compulsory placements and to protect you, and the patients/public during your course, you must meet specified occupational health requirements. These have been listed below. If you have any concerns about meeting these requirements you must email us at: [mpharm.placements@reading.ac.uk](mailto:mpharm.placements@reading.ac.uk).

You should ensure that information about your health, and vaccinations that you have received is ready and available in time for enrolment. You may be at risk of not being able to attend experiential learning visits i.e placements if you have not met our vaccination requirements.

## 1. Evidence of immunity to Mumps, Measles and Rubella (MMR) and Varicella (chicken pox)

You must be immune to chickenpox, mumps, measles, and rubella as it is important to protect you and patients from this, particularly those who have cancer, are immunocompromised or are pregnant.

**For MMR** - you should have had **TWO** MMR immunisations OR have blood test results which show your immunity. You will be required to show evidence of the dates of the **TWO** MMR vaccinations you have received or blood tests that have been taken. If you have not had this vaccination, you should contact your GP now to arrange for this to be done before your arrival. MMR vaccination through your GP should be free of charge.

**For Varicella** - you must either be certain that you have had chicken pox (no evidence is required but you must specify the time you had the chicken pox in the declaration form) OR show evidence of the dates of two Varicella vaccinations OR blood test results which show your immunity. If you have not had chicken pox previously, we can advise on how to arrange for a blood test to check your immunity, although you will be charged for this.

## 2. Tuberculosis (TB)

You will be asked questions to check that you are clear of symptoms associated with TB. This will help to identify students which may require a blood test for TB infection and ensure there is no risk to others. You will also be asked if you have TB immunity (e.g either a BCG vaccination scar to show that you have had the vaccination OR test results to show that you are immune). Please note, BCG vaccination is not a mandatory requirement of the course.

### **3. Routine childhood immunisations**

It is in your best interests to make sure that your routine childhood immunisations are up to date before you arrive at the University for enrolment. You will be required to show evidence of the dates of any vaccinations you have received or blood tests that have been taken as mentioned above. You can obtain an up-to-date copy of your immunisation history from your GP or your parents may also have a record detailing all the immunisations you have had, along with the relevant dates.

### **4. Hepatitis B Vaccination**

Hepatitis B vaccination is not a mandatory requirement of your course. However, we strongly encourage you to take up the vaccine as there may be instances in which you are handling sharps and/or coming into contact with blood and other body fluids. If you choose to opt out or are non-responders to the vaccine, you will be advised of the risks in such situations and will be advised of the correct procedures to follow if you are subject to a needlestick injury or other exposure. Should you choose to complete this vaccination course, we can advise on how you can get it done, and at your own cost.

### **5. Flu Vaccination**

A yearly flu vaccine is not a mandatory requirement of the course. However, you may wish to consider having a yearly flu vaccine to protect yourself against the virus as well as protecting vulnerable patients you may come into contact with during the course.

### **6. Covid Vaccinations**

Although it is not an official requirement, some placement providers may ask for evidence that you are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (or exempt from vaccination) to attend some placement environments in the interest of public health. This information will only be shared with the placement provider to the extent necessary to facilitate the arrangement of the placement / or alternative placement settings and to implement any adjustments that are required whilst on placement.