

## Access to Information and Protection of Privacy

On September 1, 1999, the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* came into effect at the University of Alberta. On June 11, 2025, the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* was repealed and replaced by two new Acts, the *Access to Information Act* (ATIA) and the *Protection of Privacy Act* (POPA), which were immediately adopted by the University of Alberta. The purpose of these Acts is to allow any person a right of access to the records of the University, to control the manner in which the University may collect information from individuals, to control the use that the University may make of that information, to control its disclosure of that information, to allow individuals the right of access to information about themselves, to allow individuals a right to request corrections to their personal information and to provide for an independent review of decisions of the University made under this Act, and the resolution of complaints under this Act.

The University of Alberta creates and collects information for the purposes of admission, registration and other activities directly related to its education programs. All applicants for admission are advised that the information they provide, and any other information placed into the student record, will be protected and used in compliance with the *Protection of Privacy Act* (POPA).

## University Infectious Diseases Regulation

The University of Alberta's regulation on infectious diseases is designed to limit the possibility of transmission of infectious diseases within the educational setting. The University recognizes, however, that it is not possible to completely eliminate the risk of infection. Concern about limiting the transmission of infectious diseases must be balanced against the University's duty to provide a work, study and living environment which is free from discrimination except where that discrimination can be shown to be reasonable and justifiable in the circumstances.

Students, Academic staff, Non-academic staff and other individuals at the University of Alberta shall observe Routine Practices and Additional Precautions at all times within the educational setting to lessen their risk of acquiring or transmitting infectious diseases from/to another person. These precautions entail the avoidance of direct contact with the blood, blood products, and other body fluids of another person.

All staff and students who have any exposure of blood and/or body fluids to non-intact skin, a mucous membrane or a needle-stick injury during the course of their work or study are required to report that exposure to their supervisors and to Environment, Health and Safety. These individuals are also required to seek medical attention as soon as possible through their supervisor, pre-established departmental procedures, or Emergency Department.

Further information pertaining to the reduction of transmission of infectious diseases and/or routine practices and additional precautions may be obtained from Environment, Health and Safety.

- 1. Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV):** Students should be aware of the appropriate obligations or standards of practice of their professional regulatory authority. Any student performing or assisting with exposure-prone procedures is expected to know and, if infected, report their status to their respective professional regulatory authority or directly to the Alberta Expert Review Panel for Bloodborne Viral Infections. The Panel will provide the student with recommendations for participation in curricular activities and follow-up.
- 2. Medical Testing and Immunization Requirements:** To ensure, insofar as possible, both student and patient safety, the Faculties of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences (Dietetic Interns), Medicine and Dentistry (Medicine, Dentistry, Dental Hygiene, Medical Laboratory Science, Radiation Therapy), Nursing, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Rehabilitation Medicine (Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech Language Pathology) require immunization against, and/or proof of immunity to the following diseases; diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella and hepatitis B. A one-step tuberculin skin test is also required upon entry into programs. All students must have their immunization status reviewed and updated as necessary by a qualified healthcare professional upon acceptance into a health sciences program. Any fees associated with immunization updates are the responsibility of the student. If unable to meet these requirements due to a medical contraindication(s), students must sign a waiver. Please note the consequences of choosing to sign a waiver may include not being able to attend certain clinical placements or practicums which may affect the student's ability to complete requirements of their degree.

### Notes

1. For updates on changes to medical testing and immunization requirements refer to the Faculty Student Services offices.
2. Under the terms of the Student Placement Agreement between the University of Alberta and Alberta Health Services, AHS may remove students who do not meet these immunization requirements during their clinical placement at any time. The University can request that AHS perform a risk assessment for those students who do not meet the requirement. Please contact your Faculty office for more information.
  - a. **Tetanus/Diphtheria:** Documented history of a primary vaccination series is required for both of tetanus and diphtheria, and one documented reinforcing dose of tetanus/diphtheria-containing vaccine within the last 10 years.
  - b. **Pertussis:** One documented dose of acellular pertussis-containing vaccine on/after 18 years of age is required.
  - c. **Measles:** Two valid documented doses of measles-containing vaccine are required.
  - d. **Mumps:** Two valid documented doses of mumps-containing vaccine are required.
  - e. **Rubella:** Legislated under the Public Health Act; Communicable Diseases Regulation, documentation of at least one valid dose of rubella-containing vaccine is required.
  - f. **Varicella (Chickenpox):** Documented history of valid age-appropriate varicella vaccine, or laboratory evidence of immunity, or strong history of past infection at 12 months of age or greater is required.
  - g. **Tuberculosis:** A single baseline tuberculin skin test (TST) is required upon entry to the programs, within 12 months of the program start date. If the student has documentation of a prior positive TST; a documented chest x-ray within 6 months of the program start date is required. Students with a positive TST who meet the criteria outlined in the AHS Immunization Program Standards manual shall be referred by the treating clinician to TB Services for further assessment.
  - h. **Hepatitis B:** Students will be required to show proof of immunity to hepatitis B as per the current Alberta Health Services Standard for Immunization of Health Care Workers.

### Other Third-Party Regulations

Where a student or instructor is required to attend another third-party site for their academic program or employment, and where that third-party site has other immunization requirements, the student or instructor is expected to be in compliance with that third-party regulation. It is important that students and instructors understand and follow these third-party regulations as they may impact a student's or instructor's ability to continue or complete their academic programs or employment, respectively. Students with questions about their placements at third-party sites, and the immunization regulations that they need to follow, should speak with a faculty advisor.

Please be aware that this calendar section provides a broad outline of immunizations required and adheres to the recommended best practices prescribed by Alberta Health Services, the details of which are found on their [Immunization Program Standards Manual webpage](#). This section is subject to change based on any revisions made to the Alberta Health Services Immunization Program Standards Manual.

## University Patent Policy

By accepting admission, students agree to abide by the provisions of the University of Alberta Patent Policy, as the same may be amended from time to time, with regard to any patentable discoveries or inventions in which students may participate. Acceptance of this policy is a condition of registration in any University program. An unabridged copy of the University's Patent Policy may be obtained from [University Governance](#).

## Human Research Ethics Policy

After extensive consultation the Board of Governors of the University of Alberta approved a policy in 2011 for the ethical treatment of human research participants. This policy applies to all research that involves human participants. An unabridged copy of the University's Human Research Ethics Policy may be obtained from [University Governance](#).

## Emergency Management

The Office of Emergency Management has been established to ensure the University has policies, procedures and plans in place to address any emergency or disaster situation. Visit [Emergency Preparedness and Response](#) for more information.