



The University of Manchester

VACCINATIONS INFORMATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

SOCIAL WORK AND PGCE/TEACH FIRST PROGRAMMES

Before you come to University, it is really important that you check with your GP that you are up to date with all routine immunisations as recommended by the [Department of Health](#). The UK national immunisation programme has meant that dangerous diseases, such as polio, have disappeared in the UK. But these diseases could return – they are still prevalent in many countries throughout the world. That's why it's so important for you to protect not only yourself but your colleagues and service users by being immunised.

There are two highly recommended vaccines that all new students should obtain before commencing their chosen studies at university, Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) and Meningococcal ACWY.

Meningococcal ACWY immunisation

Meningitis and septicaemia (blood poisoning) are rare but life-threatening diseases. A single dose of the MenACWY vaccine will protect you and others from these potentially fatal illnesses. Students attending university for the first time can be at an increased risk of Meningitis because they are more likely to have close contact with new students who may unknowingly be carrying the meningitis bacteria. You may have had a single dose of MenACWY vaccine whilst at school, if so then you do not require any further doses but if not then please speak to your GP practice.

To find out more about meningitis, visit [Meningitis Now](#) and the [Meningitis Research Foundation](#).

MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella)

There have been small outbreaks of mumps and measles within Universities over the past few years in the UK amongst students who have not been vaccinated. Measles is a very infectious viral illness that is spread by coughs and sneezes. Mumps is a viral illness that is spread by coughs and sneezes or close contact with someone who already has the infection, both illnesses can also have potentially fatal complications. Rubella is a viral illness, now rare in the UK, and is spread in a similar way to mumps and measles. For most people, it is usually a mild condition, however, if pregnant women develop rubella it can be very serious for their unborn baby.

The MMR vaccine is safe and effective and protects against all three separate illnesses in a single injection. To ensure you are fully protected you require two doses of the vaccine; it is likely that you would have received the two doses as an infant but it is advisable to check with your GP before arriving at University. If you have not had two doses of MMR you should make sure you attend your GP to receive them as soon as possible.

INFORMATION REGARDING OTHER VACCINATIONS

Chickenpox Vaccinations

Chickenpox is a common childhood infection and almost all children develop immunity to chickenpox after infection. Once you've had chickenpox, you're very unlikely to catch it again. Evidence suggests that about nine out of 10 adults are immune because they caught chickenpox when they were a child. If you are unsure whether you've had chickenpox in the past contact your GP as this may be documented in your medical notes.

Chickenpox vaccination is not part of the childhood vaccination programme, but is recommended for anyone (adult or child) who hasn't had chickenpox and is in regular or close contact with someone who has a weakened immune system. This includes some healthcare workers such as medical and nursing staff. If you think that you or a member of your family or household needs a vaccination please contact your GP for advice.

BCG (TB) vaccine

BCG vaccination is only recommended for people who are at occupational risk of TB exposure, including; healthcare workers and laboratory staff who are in contact with blood, urine and tissue samples; animal workers working with animals that are susceptible to TB, such as cattle or monkeys; prison staff who work directly with prisoners; staff of hostels for homeless people; staff who work in facilities for refugees and asylum seekers.

International Students

If you are from outside the UK, you will need to be up to date with all immunisations as recommended by the UK Government's Department of Health.

You should be vaccinated for tuberculosis (TB) before you enter the UK. If you are applying for a Tier 4 visa, you might also need to be tested for tuberculosis. [Find out more about tuberculosis tests for visa applicants.](#)

Talk to your doctor about any other vaccinations you might need to come to the UK. You should also check with your local embassy to find out if you are legally required to obtain any vaccines before coming to the UK.

We recommend you should obtain your vaccinations before you leave your home country. If you obtain your vaccinations in the UK, you may have to pay for some of them. If you have any evidence of your vaccinations, like an International Vaccination Book, it is advisable to bring it with you to the university.

Getting medical care as a student:

See NHS advice on [Getting medical care as a student.](#)