

Immunization and Screening Policy

Approval Authority: Senate

Established: 2026 06 11

Amendments: None

Responsible Portfolio: Office of the Provost

Responsible Office: Office of the Registrar

Category: Policy

1.0 POLICY STATEMENT

This policy outlines the immunization and infectious diseases screening requirements for all clinical learners registered at NOSM University (NOSM U).

Proof of immunity is required for all individuals providing clinical care in hospitals in Ontario under the Public Hospitals Act, Regulation 965, Section 4.

Immunizations and communicable disease screening helps protect patients, families, health care providers, and learners from acquiring and transmitting a broad range of illnesses within the health care institutions and organizations where learning occurs.

2.0 SCOPE

This policy applies to all clinical learners registered at NOSM University. Visiting learners will complete the immunization and screening process at their home university. All learners will adhere to the requirements of each individual health care institution or organization where training occurs.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

Learner: Any individual registered or enrolled in a NOSM University program when there is a need to capture individuals across multiple programs. ¹

Clinical learner: A learner who enters a patient care environment to gain experience and develop skills under the supervision of a faculty member. For the purposes of this policy, all learners referenced herein are clinical learners.

¹ NOSM University Data Steward Office, "Learner", SharePoint Definitions List, accessed May 20, 2026, <https://nosm.sharepoint.com/sites/dso/general/Lists/Definitions/DispForm.aspx?ID=51>.

Immunization: The process of becoming immune to a communicable disease, typically through vaccination.

Screening: The use of a medical test or tool to detect a disease when there are no symptoms.

4.0 POLICY TERMS

NOSM University supports the following policies and guidelines:

- Communicable Disease Surveillance Protocol Guide developed by the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) and Ontario Medical Association (OMA)
- Canadian Immunization Guide from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)
- Council of Ontario Faculties of Medicine (COFM) Immunization and Screening Policy

Learners who do not comply with the Immunization and Screening policy may be excluded from clinical learning. Non-compliance with immunization and screening requirements could potentially result in dismissal from the program.

Residents and fellows in the Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) program are required to comply with any College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) communicable diseases requirements for licensing.

The NOSM University Learner Immunization Form outlines the specific requirements for each communicable disease. Participation in clinical activities requires the completion of all immunization and screening requirements.

Learners should be aware that failure to meet the immunization and screening requirements outlined in the Learner Immunization Form, even in the presence of valid contraindications, may put them at increased risk of acquiring a communicable disease. They may be required to undertake additional precautions, post-exposure testing and/or prophylaxis, and/or may be excluded from clinical placement during the period of communicability.

5.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

NOSM University is responsible for collecting and disclosing the information on the Learner Immunization Form to teaching and administrative staff, officials of hospitals, health centres, and other health care organizations, and Synergy Gateway Verified Inc. to the extent required to facilitate clinical learning. The learner's privacy regarding the health information collected and disclosed on this form will be maintained to the greatest extent possible while accomplishing these tasks.

The learner is responsible to complete the immunization and screening requirements before entering a clinical placement. In the case of an immunization series (ex. Hepatitis B), the series must be started before the learner begins a clinical placement. Learners are responsible for the costs associated with meeting these requirements. For residents and fellows, the costs are subject to the terms of the PARO-OTH Collective Agreement.

Physicians and health care practitioners in Ontario who order investigations for learners outside of a hospital setting are responsible for notifying the local public health unit if a learner screens positive for a disease of public health significance (Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7).

6.0 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- COFM Immunization and Screening Policy
- COFM Blood Borne Viruses Policy
- OHA/OMA Communicable Disease Surveillance Protocol Guide
- NOSM University Learner Immunization Form
- NOSM Postgraduate Medical Education Resident Safety
- NOSM UME Blood Borne Pathogens Policy and Exposures Protocol

Review and Revision History

Review Period: 3 years or as required

Date for Next Review: June 2029