UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

School of Allied Health

Health Screening and Immunisation Protocol

School of Allied Health

Academic year 2026-27

Introduction

All healthcare professionals, including students in the School of Allied Health, have a duty to protect themselves and their patients/clients from disease and to be fit to attend the placement education components of their programme. As a consequence, the School of Allied Health (SAH) requires all students on its qualifying programmes[1] to have proof of the required vaccinations and a health screen by an Occupational Health provider in advance of their first placement. Failure to attend or comply with the pre-placement health screen and vaccination check will result in students not being able to attend placement and thus delay or prevent completion of the programme.

Process for completing pre-placement health screen and vaccination check. Medmark Occupational Healthcare have been appointed as the provider of occupational health services to the School of Allied Health. Medmark will maintain contact with the student throughout the screening process.

1. Students will be advised, via the SAH Welcome Pack for MSc students/at the start of the programme for BSc students, of the schedule of vaccinations required, Immunisation Guidelines for entry-level students and of instructions on How to Complete Your Online Pre-Clinical Placement Questionnaire. Ideally, those students abroad should complete the online pre- placement medical Questionnaire not later than the end of August. All other students should complete the pre-placement medical Questionnaire before the end of September.
2. Within the SAH Welcome Pack students will also be provided with the Medmark **Immunisation Declaration Form** (separate to the online pre-placement medical Questionnaire).
    - This completed document, in conjunction with proof of vaccinations, must be submitted to Medmark before the end of September.
    - Students give consent for the screening on these forms.
    - Within this document, Section A, Part 1 relates to TB Immunisation. This section can only be completed and submitted within six months of starting placement. If submitted too early Certification for placement will not be valid and may delay placement. This is clearly noted on the Form.
    - The students can however begin to gather their other vaccination requirement proofs straight away on receipt of the SAH Welcome pack.

[1] MSc Nutrition and Dietetics, BSc Occupational Therapy, MSc Occupational Therapy (Professional Qualification),. BSc Physiotherapy, MSc Physiotherapy (Professional Qualification), BSc Speech & Language Therapy, MSc Speech and Language Therapy (Professional Qualification),

3. Medmark will provide a 1 hour talk during SAH induction week schedule to outline the process requirements for students.
4. Medmark will review the **Immunisation Declaration Form** from September and arrange any follow-up visits where necessary.
5. Those students needing additional vaccinations can contact Medmark to make an appointment, or attend their own doctor. Students requiring TB screening can avail of the Medmark clinic in November – Medmark will contact those students requiring this screening directly.
6. **The cost of the Occupational Health Screening process and verification/certification of immunisation status carried out by Medmark is €150 per student. If further vaccinations are needed, the student can source these from a provider of their own choice (e.g., GP or Medmark) but is responsible for all costs incurred**.
7. Weekly updates of student status regarding vaccinations/health screening will be sent to the SAH.
8. Once screening/immunisation is completed, Medmark will issue a Certificate of Fitness for Placement. Medmark will hold the Certificates which can be requested by the students directly from Medmark if needed for a placement or any other purpose. Temporary certificates can be issued where required for those in the process.
9. Medmark will maintain contact with the student where required if there are ongoing issues after certification i.e. health issues that do not affect the student's ability to attend placement, but which still require management. In this case Medmark will advise the student on management and stay in contact with the student where necessary.
10. Fully updated information on students' immunisation will be available by November.

Canadian students - TB vaccination is not normally provided in Canada/US.

- Medmark will manage this process: they will provide a Mantoux test to confirm TB is not present, and the students will sign a disclaimer in relation to not being vaccinated for TB.
- Medmark can also provide a separate certificate of TB status for Canadian students which can be produced on their return to Canada.
- The above also applies to **domestic students** who have not beenvaccinated for TB.
- Note: Currently the TB vaccine is not available in Ireland

Returning Students. Medmark can process rescreening for returning students (i.e. those returning from leave due to medical issues) at any time if this is required.

1. Practice Education administrator will advise Medmark of any returning students who need rescreening, including their email addresses.
2. Medmark will send a link to the necessary online Questionnaire/other documentation directly to students so they can be processed immediately.

Students presenting cause for concern following Certification of fitness for placement

- Should any issues arise regarding the health status of a student at any time following Certification of Fitness for Placement, the School will gain consent to refer them to Medmark

for further screening. The student can withdraw consent for this process at any time. However, the Certification of Fitness for Placement will be suspended until such time as the student's status is confirmed by Medmark.

Consequences of not completing pre-placement health screen and vaccination check.
Students will **NOT** be allocated their first practice education until the Occupational Health Provider has checked their Immunisation Declaration Form and deemed them Fit for Placement.

Reporting following pre-placement health screen and vaccination check.

The Occupational Health provider will provide to the SAH, in advance of the first practice education placement, a report detailing whether students have been deemed fit for placement or not.

Students who are deemed Unfit for Placement

A student can be deemed temporarily unfit for placement. In this situation the student will have further reviews with the Occupational Health provider until deemed fit for placement. In certain situations, as advised by the Occupational Health provider, conditions may be laid down which must be fulfilled before the student is deemed fit for placement.

Where a student is deemed fit for placement only under specified conditions, and/or where issues which would affect the performance of a student on placement are disclosed to the Occupational Health Physician, the Occupational Health Physician will advise the student on the appropriate management of the issue while on placement and will advise the student to disclose to the SAH, Head of School the nature of the issue to ensure that appropriate, reasonable accommodations are in place for the student to attend placement.

The Head of School will notify the appropriate Practice Education Co-ordinator of the nature of the disclosure. The Practice Education Co-ordinator will work with the student to prepare them for placement. In the event that a student is deemed fit to attend placement only under specified conditions, it may result in a delay in identifying a suitable placement site. In some circumstances this may result in the student having to take that placement as a link-in the following year.

A student can be deemed absolutely unfit for placement. If deemed to be absolutely unfit for placement the student will not be allocated their first placement. Where the Occupational Health Physician deems a student absolutely unfit for placement, they will advise the student to disclose to the Head of School the nature of the issue preventing the student from attending placement, so that a decision can be made regarding continuance on the programme.

Appeal process if a student is deemed absolutely unfit for placement.

Where a student is deemed absolutely unfit for placement, the student has the right to appeal this decision to the Head of School who will arrange an independent third party Occupational Health assessment.

Data protection – Personal data is processed in accordance with General Data Protection

Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection Acts 1988-2018. The Occupational Health provider remains the data controller.

Costs

All students must pay €150 to the School of Allied Health to cover the costs of their health screen and vaccination check with the Occupational Health provider. Vaccinations, if required, may be obtained from the student's GP or from the Occupational health provider (will incur an extra charge). Payment is made to School of Allied Health through A UL payment link as outlined in the Pre-requisites for Placement payment information and breakdown form, which is provided in the SAH welcome pack.

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Approved by Prof. Judi Pettigrew Head, School of Allied Health - 24th July 2026