



## Table of Contents

1.0	PURPOSE .....	2
2.0	SCOPE .....	2
3.0	GOVERNANCE & RESPONSIBILITY .....	3
4.0	REFERENCES .....	4
5.0	DEFINITIONS & ABBREVIATIONS.....	4
6.0	PROCEDURE .....	5
7.0	APPENDIX.....	13
8.0	SIGN OFF .....	14
9.0	VERSION HISTORY .....	14

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Version Number:	1	
Effective Date:		
Document Number:	SOM-SOP-POL-002	
Short Description:	This policy outlines the process for School Of Medicine students to avail of the Covid-19 Vaccination.	

## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1** The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and safety of the School of Medicine (Hereinafter referred to as SoM) faculty, students, patients and others who work or train in the SoM’s healthcare locations – including all of the academic teaching hospitals and medical centres.

## 2.0 SCOPE

- 2.1** This manual seeks to outline the policies and procedures to be followed by students to minimize the risk of Covid-19 infections to students, patients and to others through vaccination.

## 3.0 GOVERNANCE & RESPONSIBILITY

- 3.1** The SoM COVID Return to Business Committee meets regularly every month and will continue to do so in order to review the mechanisms in place to ensure the health and safety of staff and students across the multiple campuses.

## 4.0 REFERENCES

- 4.1** [Resumption of Education Guidelines- HEA](#)  
**4.2** [COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) - HSE.ie](#)  
**4.3** [\(COVID-19 vaccines - HSE.ie](#)  
**4.4** [Symptoms and treatment - HSE.ie](#)

## 5.0 DEFINITIONS & ABBREVIATIONS

- 5.0** The Head of School: Hereafter referred to as HOS, has overall responsibility for the management and running of the SoM.
- 5.1** The School Manager: Hereafter referred to as SM, provides support to the HOS in the management and co-ordination of all the School's activities. The SM is responsible for the implementation of the quality manual and other SOM policies applicable.
- 5.2** Approval: For purposes of this policy, all Covid-19 vaccines are considered “approved” after the following conditions are met: (i) That the European Medicines Authority or

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HPRA have approved its administration(ii) That the Department of Health and the HSE has recommended its administration; and (iii) the relevant clinical location (e.g., Academic teaching hospital, Trinity Student Health Service) has authorized the vaccine for distribution to SoM students, as applicable.

- 5.3** Covid-19 Vaccine: means the Covid-19 vaccine and any subsequent boosters or recurrent vaccinations, on an annual or recurring basis, consistent with or as recommended by Irish public health authorities labelling and CDC recommendations.
- 5.4** Participation: Receipt of education about Covid-19 vaccines and either:
  - (i) receipt of an approved Covid-19 Vaccine where vaccination is required for a particular clinical placement in accordance with the policies and procedures of the particular clinical placement site (but see Section 6.2 below),
  - (ii) where vaccination is not required for placement understanding the risks to patient/student/staff health and safety of attending a clinical placement setting without a Covid-19 Vaccine and understanding the risks set out in Section 6.3 of this Policy.
- 5.5** SoM Vaccination programme: A vaccination programme intended to reduce the incidence of Covid-19 infection and resultant COVID-19 disease among SoM staff, students and patients. The Vaccination programme includes education about vaccinations and receiving or declining the vaccination.
- 5.6** Vaccine Information Statement (“VIS”): An information sheet produced by the SoM or vaccine administrating authority including information derived from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the HPRA, the EMA, the [Health Service Executive \(HSE\)](#) ,National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) or Trinity Health, explaining in plain language the benefits and risks of a vaccine to vaccine recipients. A VIS generally must be provided to an individual being vaccinated prior to each dose of the vaccine.
- 5.7** Vaccine Authority: the agency/clinical site that is providing the vaccination to the individual.

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## 6.0 PROCEDURE

**6.1** This policy refers specifically to covid-19 vaccination and any subsequent booster injection and does not replace existing policies on vaccinations in the Trinity Calendar (Appendix 2) or other policies requiring SoM staff, students, patients, and visitors to observe non-pharmaceutical interventions include appropriate use of personal protective equipment (or, for patients and visitors, face coverings or facemasks), social and physical distancing, and frequent handwashing.

**6.2** All SoM students on clinical placement in connection with their programme must participate in the SoM Vaccination programme by receiving education(6.2.1) concerning the vaccine; and all students are strongly encourage to receive a Covid-19 Vaccine and are required to Participate in this Policy (as detailed in 6.2.2 below)

6.2.1 Education: Completing education on [HSE.ie](https://www.hse.ie) at the time of entry into Medical School, at the time of each required vaccination activity, as part of ongoing training and education, or any combination thereof concerning:

- The potential benefits of Covid-19 vaccination;
- The potential health consequences of COVID-19 illness for themselves, family members and other contacts, co-workers, patients, and the community;
- Occupational exposure to Covid-19;
- The epidemiology and modes of transmission, diagnosis, and nonvaccine infection control strategies (such as the use of appropriate precautions, personal protective equipment, and respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette), in accordance with their level of responsibility in preventing healthcare associated COVID- 19infections;
- The safety profile and potential risks of any Covid- 19 vaccine;
- Requirements for participation in the SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination programme and consequences of failing to participate;
- Education may be conveyed through any combination of written information statements, verbal communications, or online or in- person training programmes, consistent with applicable law and location policies and practices. Students

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with disabilities who require accommodations to access or complete any educational materials or programmes should contact the TCD disability services office.

- 6.2.2 Participation: Either: (i) where vaccination is required by a clinical placement provider, in accordance with the policies and procedures of that clinical placement site provider, receiving a recommended Covid-19 Vaccine at the required intervals, or (ii) declining the vaccination and, understanding the risk both to the health and safety of patients, staff and students of this decision and potential consequences of non-participation in clinical placements (see 6.3 below).

**6.3 Vaccine Declination:** The SoM recognises the right to decline to take the vaccine or booster injection at this time. Where a placement provider requires proof of vaccination, then for patient/staff/student safety reasons in accordance with the policies and requirements of the placement provider, a student may not be assigned placement with the relevant placement provider. If a student has not confirmed vaccination status or has confirmed that they have not received the Covid-19 Vaccine, then for clinical placement purposes the SoM and the relevant discipline will have to review and determine if there is (which cannot be guaranteed) a placement provider available that will admit students without confirmation of vaccination status or confirmation of declination. In such instances the students will have to comply with all relevant requirements of the placement site. Where a student has declined vaccination or has not provided vaccination status, and vaccination is required by placement providers, a student may not be assigned to clinical placement if a placement provider is not available to take such a student.

The SoM will do everything it can to ensure that those students who decline vaccination or refuse to provide evidence of vaccination are able to meet their programme learning outcomes and acquire the required clinical skills. Remedies could include deferral of, for example, clinical placement and/or off- books extensions as appropriate. However, students should recognise that remedial action may not be possible in all cases, and progression, including the award of the Degree, may be jeopardised in some cases. It is notable that a number of placement providers will not accept unvaccinated students. Therefore, the SoM requests that students discuss carefully the academic implications of a declination decision with their tutor, mentor, Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning (“DUTL”) or HOS as appropriate.

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**6.4** Whether vaccinated or not, students must continue to wear personal protective equipment as directed by the placement provider to mitigate risk to patients and other health care workers whenever they are on clinical placement in any clinical placement provider facility.

**6.5** A student who initially declines the Covid-19 vaccine but later decides to become vaccinated should discuss their plans with occupational health and college health may receive the vaccine through any available vaccine provider and, where required, provide documentation of the administration to the SoM, Therapy Discipline or associated Clinical Service.

**6.6** Superseding Public Health Guidelines. In the event that the Irish government imposes a mandate restricting or eliminating participation options, the applicable public health mandate will be implemented at all SoM clinical locations.

**6.7** Tracking and Reporting: The following information may be required by the placement provider in the applicable confidential personnel health record or student health record:

- Date of administration
- Vaccine type
- Vaccine manufacturer
- Vaccine lot number
- Expiration date
- Site of administration
- Name and title of person administering vaccine
- VIS provided to the student

Any adverse events associated with Covid-19 vaccines or booster injection administration should be reported to medcheckdaily and should be tracked and logged by the location vaccine authority and reported as appropriate to the HPRA. Each clinical placement site may establish local procedures to facilitate administration of the Covid-19 vaccine and will be considered in conjunction to this policy.

**6.8** Registry and programme Evaluation: Appropriate information about all vaccinations may be submitted to the HSE as required by applicable public health agencies or University policy. Individual clinical sites shall evaluate initial allocation and, thereafter, programme participation, on an annual and ongoing basis, including

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evaluation of equity and disparities in initial allocation and programme implementation; as well as reasons identified for non-participation or untimely participation, the number and characteristics of personnel and students not vaccinated, and the reasons given (if any) for declination.

- 6.9** Programme participation: programme participation in education is mandatory, but each participant may, after receiving appropriate information about the vaccine, consent to vaccination or decline. Declination, or refusal to reveal vaccination status may require additional compensating safety measures, as determined by the clinical placement provider and consistent with applicable public health directives or a clinical placement site provider may determine, in accordance with their policies and procedures, not to accept students who have not taken the Covid-19 Vaccine or will not provide their vaccination status. In addition if a student’s decision or change of mind regarding the vaccination is not within a timely manner, the School or the discipline may not be in a position to secure a placement for them automatically or immediately. Therefore the student may be required to go off-books. It is important to note that that some placement providers may require vaccination and that the SoM cannot guarantee that an appropriate placement will be available and completion of the course may be delayed or at risk.

## 7.0 Appendix

- 7.1 Vaccination Declination Statement
- 7.2 TCD Calendar Statement on Vaccinations
- 7.3 Updated HSE Communication

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## 8.0 SIGN OFF

<b><u>Prepared by:</u></b>	
Michael Gill Head of School of Medicine	
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date: 26.05.22</b>
	
<b><u>Reviewed by:</u></b>	
Kevin Conlon Chair Return to Business Committee	
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date: 26.05.22</b>
	
<b><u>Approved by:</u></b>	
Michael Gill Head of School of Medicine	
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date: 26.05.22</b>
	

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Version Number:		
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Document Number:	SOM-SOP-POL-002 Appendix 2	
Short Description:	TCD Calendar Statement on Vaccinations	

### *Health screening and vaccination*

3 All health care professionals have a duty of care to the public. In the interests of reducing the risk of the transmission of infectious disease from patients to students, or students to patients, all new entrants to the Faculty of Health Sciences in dental science must attend a registered general practitioner or the College Health Service and submit the completed required health screening and vaccination documents to the school prior to the first Friday in October to certify their vaccination status or immunity to tuberculosis, measles, mumps, rubella and chickenpox.

Students must produce evidence of their hepatitis B and C status and where appropriate confirmation that they do not have active disease. Students who are hepatitis B negative but not already deemed to be immune to hepatitis B will be required to undergo a course of vaccination. Students will not receive hepatitis B vaccination until they show evidence that they are negative for hepatitis B virus antigens. Students will not be permitted to commence practical clinical experience until they have received at least two doses of the hepatitis B vaccine. Complete details of the vaccination programmes and the blood borne viruses (BBV) policy must be adhered to and are communicated to applicants as part of the admissions process and are available from the school offices and websites. Students will also be advised to seek vaccination against influenza each year for the duration of their course of studies. Students who fail to complete the above requirements will be made withdrawn from their course of study and a re-admission fee may apply.

Advice for applicants who test positive for a BBV can be arranged through the College Health Service. Applicants who are chronic viral carriers and who successfully undergo treatment, which renders them no longer an infectious risk to patients, may reapply for admission to their chosen course. All efforts will be made to reserve a place on the forthcoming student intake for such individuals, however this cannot be guaranteed.

In the rare circumstances where during their studies a student acquires a BBV infection, their school will consider reasonable accommodations in accordance with statutory requirements. Details of the management of students who become infected with a BBV during their course are outlined in the BBV policy. In the event that a student has, or during the course of study becomes aware of, any life threatening infectious condition that could be transmitted to a patient or fellow health worker, such as HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, tuberculosis, chickenpox, influenza, measles or rubella they should advise their school office and consult a registered general practitioner or the College Health Service to confirm they are not contagious. If they are contagious they should obtain a medical certificate confirming the diagnosis and should refrain from patient contact until cleared medically.

If Irish law, or official guidance, changes between the date of publication of this documentation and the date of registration of new applicants to this course, the Faculty of Health Sciences reserves the right to require that the criteria adopted in relation to the ability to practise clinically in Ireland be satisfied before registration is permitted. All costs associated with tests for health screening and vaccination must be met by the student

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Version Number:		
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Document Number:	SOM-SOP-POL-002 Appendix 3	
Short Description:	HSE guidance on Clinical placements in HSE facilities and HSE funded facilities March 2022	

**HSE Guidance on Clinical Placements in HSE Facilities and HSE Funded Facilities**  
**From 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022**  
**(Issued on 24/02/2022)**

The education and training of undergraduate students in healthcare disciplines within our model is based on a multi-stakeholder partnership involving patients, students, the Higher Education Institutes, the regulators of the professions and healthcare service providers including the HSE. Throughout the pandemic, the HSE has worked with the Higher Education Institutes and other partners to ensure that clinical placements for students in the healthcare professions were facilitated through an exceptionally challenging time.

The HSE remains committed to working with key partners to support clinical placements to the greatest practical degree subject to the priority of protecting the safety of patients, staff and students. Vaccination against COVID-19 is voluntary in Ireland. The HSE does not seek to impose vaccination on students but has acted as necessary to manage risk to students, staff and patients in a proportionate manner. It was always the intention that any requirements related to the pandemic would be in place only for as long as necessary. The vast majority of patients and staff are now vaccinated including booster vaccination. A very high proportion of the population not yet vaccinated are likely to have recovered from primary infection and are therefore no longer immune naïve. In addition, the risk of severe outcomes is modified by an increasing range of therapeutic options available for those who develop infection and who are at risk of severe disease. In this context, the HSE has decided that from March 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 it will no longer require a specific risk assessment for HSE staff engaged in patient-facing roles who are not vaccinated against COVID-19. The HSE will apply the same approach to students on clinical placement from that date. This means that it will no longer be necessary for Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) to request information on COVID-19 vaccination status from students in advance of assigning them to clinical placement. The HSE continues to recommend vaccination and booster vaccination against COVID-19 and annual Influenza vaccine to healthcare workers and healthcare students.

For the purpose of this document, Clinical Placements refers to unpaid clinical experience for healthcare students whose presence is not specifically required to sustain service delivery. Students (for example 4th year nursing students) who constitute part of the workforce that sustain service delivery are in the same category as other healthcare workers. Those students who are paid members of the workforce are considered as staff members at work rather than as students on clinical placement.

**From March 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 the HSE will accept clinical placements for HEI students on the following basis:**

**Governance**

A document should be agreed between the HEI and service that accommodates the clinical placement. The agreement may be at hospital, hospital group, unit or CHO level as suitable to the needs of the parties concerned. The document should address issues of legal liability in the event of alleged harm to students arising from their clinical placement and specific measures to manage risks of infection for patients, healthcare workers and students related to the clinical placements. Where such a document is already in

place the partners should consider if a review is required in the context of changes and experience since last reviewed. There is a requirement for the HEIs to periodically review adherence to the agreed processes.

### **Infection Prevention and Control Requirements from HEIs**

1. The HEI will provide an assurance that students and teachers/educators have given undertakings as follows
  - that they will not present on clinical placement if they have any symptoms of acute infection such as symptoms of viral respiratory tract infection or gastroenteritis
  - that they will not be present in clinical areas without a specific purpose related to their educational requirements
  - that when engaged in self-directed and unsupervised learning in clinical areas they should not form groups of more than 2 or 3 people
  - that they will limit unsupervised learning in clinical areas to defined areas or services (for example the team to which they are currently assigned)
  - that they will limit their time in the clinical area to the minimum time necessary for their learning. Students engaged in self-directed learning should move away from the clinical area for any extended group discussion of their learning
  - that they will be “bare below the elbows/bare above the wrist” when in clinical areas.
  - that they will comply with IPC direction given by HSE staff when they are in HSE clinical areas.
  - that they will co-operate with requirements for management of outbreaks or other incidents of infection including providing samples for testing where required
  - that if they have chosen not to be vaccinated against key respiratory viruses (SARS-CoV-2 and Influenza) in accordance with current public health guidance that they will, to the greatest degree practical, limit contact with patients in high-risk areas in particular haematology and oncology in-patient areas, haemodialysis services, intensive care units including neonatal intensive care units
  - that if they have chosen not to be vaccinated against key respiratory viruses (SARS-CoV-2 and Influenza) in accordance with current public health guidance that they will not engage in unsupervised learning activity that places high-risk patients /clients at risk of infection related to the students vaccination choice

The format and the manner in which this undertaking is given is at the discretion of the HEI but may take the form of a written or electronic undertaking at the start of each semester.

2. The HEI will provide an assurance that there is a pathway by which students and teachers/educators can rapidly inform an appropriate person in the HEI in the event that they develop an infectious disease (COVID-19 or other communicable infectious disease) that may have implications for patients and staff who have recently been exposed to the students. The HEI will have a process for communicating this information appropriately to the relevant HSE service area.
3. The HEI will provide an assurance that clinical placements have been reviewed to ensure student(s) assignments to attend in clinical areas is limited to events/times that are essential for student education.
4. The HEI will provide an assurance that it applies an agreed maximum number of students present in a clinical space for any supervised teaching activity. Generally, the number of people present at a bedside teaching session in should be no more than six excluding the patient and any accompanying person (five students with one teacher/educator). In certain settings where there is a requirement for a relatively large number of clinical staff (for example a surgical team, some

procedures in the intensive care unit, delivery of a baby, ward round) the number of students should be limited to one or at most two in one operating room or one delivery room.

5. The HEI will provide an assurance that all students have had appropriate infection prevention and control training in advance of clinical placement, to include Standard and Transmission-based Precautions. There are training materials available on HSeLand that are accessible to all students that reflect the HSE approach to Infection Prevention and Control. HEIs are asked to encourage students to complete these modules and to consider including these modules as part of their curriculum for all healthcare students.
6. The HEI will provide an assurance that all students have been assessed and certified as competent in performance of hand hygiene in advance of clinical placement and have competence re-assessed at least once in each academic year. Competence may be assessed by visual observation of performance of hand hygiene by an assessor with appropriate training.
7. The HEI will provide an assurance that where relevant PPE training has been completed, including training on [www.hseland.ie](http://www.hseland.ie) and videos on [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie) to ensure correct donning and doffing of PPE.
8. The HEI will provide an assurance that there is a process in place to ensure that students have been assessed to ensure that they have been offered immunisation, have been immunised and where appropriate (for example Hepatitis B virus) have been tested to ensure immunity to relevant infectious disease in line with relevant national guidance.
9. Students who are not confirmed as immune to Hepatitis B virus may not engage in exposure prone procedures (Note refers).
10. HEIs should ensure that appropriate vaccination is promoted to all students who undertake clinical placements. The HSE will facilitate vaccination of students on clinical placement against Influenza virus and SARS-CoV-2 in line with vaccination programmes offered to staff.
11. The HEI should provide an assurance that clinical placements have been reviewed to minimise the extent to which students move between multiple different healthcare or social care sites over a short period of time. It is accepted that in some cases attendance at different sites is required  
Moving from one placement site to another:  
Students can move from a placement in one institution to a placement in another without an interval of time subject to the following:
  - they have adhered to recommended Infection Prevention and Control Practice at all times with all individuals during clinical placement.
  - they do not have fever, cough, shortness of breath or other symptoms of COVID-19 or other communicable infectious disease.

Note:

Where the student has fully cooperated with the required immunisation process but immunity to a specific infection cannot be confirmed (for example non-response to Hepatitis B vaccine) there should be an assurance that there is a process to manage the risk to patients and the student. Where a student has a chronic viral infection (for example HIV) there should be an assurance that there is a process in place to manage the risk to patients.

ENDS