

Message to all students from the AFMC Immunization Working Group – a MUST read

When applying for a visiting elective at a Canadian medical school, you must use the *AFMC Student Portal Immunization Form**. A Health Care Provider (HCP) must complete almost all of the form, but you need to review every part of the form carefully to ensure that nothing is missed. Failure to follow all instructions will delay approval of your visiting elective.

Here are the **eight most common problems**:

1. Incomplete form.

Solution: Double check to ensure that the healthcare provider (HCP) has completed all required sections of the form and that you have completed Section A and only if applicable, Appendices A, B, and D.

2. Form not completed by HCP.

Solution: If you are asked to complete parts of the form to 'save time', tell the HCP that you are NOT permitted to do so. Your signed declaration on page 1 of the form confirms this.

3. No hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) test result.

Solution: The HBsAg is an antigen test and differs from the hepatitis B surface antibody test. The HCP MUST document a HBsAg result for you, regardless of your other hepatitis B tests or immunizations. If you have never had a test for HBsAg you will need to get one now.

4. No adult tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis (Tdap) immunization.

Solution: A dose of Tdap vaccine provided on or after 18 years of age is required (regardless of when the previous Tdap or other tetanus/diphtheria-containing vaccine was provided). If needed, get a Tdap vaccination now.

5. No tetanus/diphtheria and/or a polio primary series.

Solution: Ensure that you have the equivalent of a complete series for these immunizations consisting of a minimum of three doses (minimum one month between first two doses; minimum six months between last two doses). Also, make sure that your last dose of a tetanus/diphtheria-containing vaccine was received within the past ten years.

6. (For those applying to Queens and/or McMaster) No test results for HIV and hepatitis C.

Solution: Review the extra testing requirements for these two medical schools carefully and supply all required documentation as per instructions.

7. (For those with a positive TST) Insufficient testing documentation and declaration.

Solution: Students with a positive TST must include the documented TST result AND the chest X-ray taken after the TST was found AND the student must complete Appendix B.

8. Unnecessary measles, mumps, and rubella serology:

Solution: If you have an adequate number of measles, mumps and rubella immunizations documented with proper timing (all provided on or after 12 months of age) and spacing (minimum four weeks apart), then serology results for measles, mumps, and rubella are not required. When immunization records are inadequate, the preferred approach is additional immunizations instead of serological testing.

The *Student Guide* is available for those wanting more information. The *Student Guide and Form* can be found at: <https://afmctudentportal.ca/Immunization>.

*Québec students applying to a Québec medical school do not need to use the form to apply for an elective.