

GUIDELINES FOR VACCINATION

March 2015

1. PURPOSE

These guidelines set out the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences' requirements and procedures for work/study related vaccinations. This should be read in conjunction with the relevant Vaccination and Zoonotic Diseases Information document(s).

2. SCOPE

2.1 Staff

These guidelines cover all staff members (excluding volunteers and titleholders) of the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences.

2.2 Students

These guidelines cover all students enrolled in the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, including students in the Bachelor of Science (Animal Science), Bachelor of Science (Veterinary Bioscience), Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, and Honours, Masters and PhD programs.

3. VACCINATION INFORMATION

All students enrolled in undergraduate programs and post-graduate coursework programs must read the Vaccination and Zoonotic Diseases Induction document(s)

All staff in fixed term or continuing employment must as a condition of their employment must read the Vaccination and Zoonotic Diseases Induction document(s)

4. Q FEVER

4.1 General

Q Fever is an infectious disease caused by the microorganism *Coxiella burnetii*. The organism is highly infectious, very resistant to environmental extremes and is classified as a Risk Group 3 organism requiring highly specialised containment facilities and is a notifiable disease in Australia.

The School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences has the responsibility to ensure that undergraduate and postgraduate students and staff are adequately protected against this vaccine preventable disease.

4.2 Vaccination – Students

a) Requirements

- Bachelor of Science (Veterinary Bioscience) and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students **must be** vaccinated against Q Fever (unless initial skin test indicates pre-existing immunity).
- Bachelor of Science (Animal Science) students are **strongly advised** to vaccinate against Q Fever (unless initial skin test indicates pre-existing immunity).
- Honours, Masters and PhD students working in, visiting, or servicing areas housing the animals identified above (such as stockyards, abattoirs, shearing sheds) or areas where animal tissues, carcasses or waste products are handled or processed are **strongly advised** to be vaccinated (unless initial skin test indicates pre-existing immunity).

b) Vaccination Providers

Student must organise their own vaccinations. There are numerous Approved Q Fever Vaccination Providers available here <http://www.qfever.org/vaclist.php>

The School has two preferred providers:

- Occmed SA (Ph. 8212 3224)
- Tanunda Medical Centre (Ph. 8563 2777)

c) Evidence

Students who must be vaccinated need to lodge documentation showing their Q Fever status with the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences by the first teaching period of their veterinary studies. If a student has not complied with the above requirement by the last day of the first teaching period of their studies, they will be unable to continue in the program.

The School will maintain a list of each students Q Fever status and monitor compliance.

d) Objection

Students in the Bachelor of Science (Veterinary Bioscience) and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine who refuse to be vaccinated for health reasons must sign an indemnity and release (an example of which is attached as Annexure A to these Guidelines), supply a medical certificate from a recognised medical practitioner (either a general practitioner or specialist doctor registered in Australia to provide medical services through Medicare, or a panel doctor approved by the Australian Government to conduct medical tests in overseas countries for immigration purposes) and lodge it with the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences by the first teaching period of their studies. Students who are not vaccinated for Q fever will not be permitted on-site at some facilities (e.g. abattoirs) and consequently this may result in their inability to complete the accredited requirements of the course mandated by the relevant professional accrediting body.

4.3 Staff Vaccinations and Other Responsibilities

Staff members must determine if Q Fever vaccination is required for their research projects or practical classes.

Staff should inform any postgraduate students under their supervision if Q Fever vaccines are required for their research projects.

Staff working in, visiting, or servicing areas housing the animals identified in Paragraph 4.1 (such as stockyards, abattoirs, shearing sheds) or areas where animal tissues, carcasses or waste products are handled or processed are strongly advised to be vaccinated.

5. INFLUENZA

Vaccinations for Influenza (Flu Shots) are a personal choice. They are not required, organised or paid for by the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences for any individual.

6. TETANUS

A Tetanus booster may be required for those at occupational risk of Tetanus. These are persons in workshops, on farms and who attend field trips. This is dependent on the level of exposure and type of activity being undertaken. Individuals are advised to maintain tetanus booster if required based on their own individual assessment. Tetanus vaccinations will not be covered by the School.

7. AUSTRALIAN BAT LYSSA VIRUS (ABLV)

Australian bat lyssa virus is very closely related to classical rabies virus, both members of the family Rhabdoviridae, genus Lyssavirus. The vaccine for classical rabies also protects against ABLV, as does the post-exposure treatment. All students and staff who are likely to be handling bats during the course of their work or study, must be vaccinated appropriately and, to demonstrate successful vaccination, have a blood test to demonstrate a sufficient antibody titre (>0.5 IU/mL). This titre should be re-checked every 2 years, and once the titre falls below the critical threshold, a booster vaccination should be sought. Failure to comply will result in staff / students being declined permission to work with bats. This will be determined by the appropriate academic / supervisor.

8. PREGNANCY

There are special issues for pregnant staff and students in terms of exposure to pathogens and vaccines. Students or staff members who are pregnant should seek advice from their medical practitioner regarding issues relevant to their own situation.

9. VACCINATIONS FOR OVERSEAS TRAVEL

Vaccinations required for overseas travel are paid by the funding research group. This is considered an independent activity funded by the research group that is supporting the activity.

Students who undertake EMS placements overseas need to consider the relevant vaccinations relative to the country and species they will be working with.

10. VACCINATION COSTS - STUDENTS

All costs associated with testing and vaccination must be paid for by the student. The cost of testing and vaccinations vary from provider to provider. The consultation fee at a GP may be covered by Medicare and the vaccination may be covered by some private health insurance companies. Students are advised to consult their private health insurance provider regarding associated costs with vaccines.

11. VACCINATION REIMBURSEMENT - STAFF

The School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences will reimburse staff for the costs of vaccinations for Q fever, tetanus and/or ABLV.

- The staff member should pay the cost of the vaccination when attending at the clinic, and then later lodge a claim form to have the funds reimbursed. The receipt must be

made out to the staff member. When applying for reimbursement for the vaccination, the staff member must fill out a “SAVS Vaccination Authorisation” form and have it signed by their supervisor.

- With the prior consent of the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, a clinic may invoice the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences directly, with no payment made by the staff member at the time of vaccination. In this case you the invoice must be made out to the School. The authorisation form and all relevant paperwork must then be returned to the School.

Annexure A

Example Indemnity and Release

DEED OF INDEMNITY AND RELEASE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE ABN 61 249 878 937, a body corporate established pursuant to the provisions of the University of Adelaide Act 1971, of North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia 5005 (**“the University”**)

AND

NAME:

ADDRESS:

(“the Student”)

- A. The Student is enrolled as a student within the University’s School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences.
- B. The University has provided information to the Student about the Student’s need for vaccination against [Q fever, tetanus, ABVL].
- C. The Student has declined to be vaccinated as required by the University and agrees to indemnify and release the University as set out in this Deed.

1. STUDENT’S ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Student acknowledges that:

- 1.1 there are inherent risks associated with the Student’s participation in the activities required by the Student’s program of study;
- 1.2 the Student has received information from the University in relation to the existence of those risks;
- 1.3 the Student has consulted with a doctor prior to obtain information in relation to those risks and vaccination;
- 1.4 the Student has had the opportunity to make his/her own enquiries and satisfy himself/herself in relation to those risks and voluntarily assumes all of those risks
- 1.5 if the Student is not vaccinated for [Q fever, tetanus, ABVL] he/she will not be permitted on-site at some facilities (such as abattoirs). In some courses attendance at such facilities is required as a compulsory component and on some extra-mural placements. If a student cannot attend or participate because he/she is not vaccinated it may adversely affect his/her ability to complete his/her program of study.

2. RELEASE AND INDEMNITY

The Student hereby **RELEASES AND HOLDS THE UNIVERSITY HARMLESS** from all actions, suits, proceedings, accounts, complaints, claims, demands, costs, expenses and damages and discharges the University from all or any liability whatsoever, whether arising at law or in equity, and whether pursuant to contract, tort, statute, or otherwise, which but for the execution of this Deed the Student now has or had at any time previously or might have in the future arising out of or in connection with all matters relating directly or indirectly to the Student’s decision not to be vaccinated, whether such actions, suits, proceedings, accounts, complaints, claims, demands, costs, expenses and damages be direct, indirect or consequential or past, present or future or certain, contingent, ascertained or not ascertained

and whether for monies claimed as aforesaid or not or pursuant to or arising directly or indirectly out of the Student's decision not to be vaccinated or otherwise to the intent that all questions and issues which might but for this Deed arise and any time shall be finally settled and the Student will indemnify the University and keep the University indemnified each other in respect thereof.

The Student hereby **INDEMNIFIES** and must keep the University **INDEMNIFIED** against any actions, suits, proceedings, accounts, complaints, claims, demands, costs, expenses or damages, and against any and all liability whatsoever, whether arising at law or in equity, and whether pursuant to contract, tort, statute or otherwise, that the University may incur as a direct or indirect result of the Student's decision not to be vaccinated whether such actions, suits, proceedings, accounts, complaints, claims, demands, costs, expenses and damages be direct, indirect or consequential or past, present or future or certain, contingent, ascertained or not ascertained and whether for monies claimed as aforesaid or not or pursuant to or arising directly or indirectly out of the Student's decision not to be vaccinated or otherwise.

EXECUTED by the parties as a Deed on the 201

Signed for and on behalf of the University of Adelaide by:

..... Signature of Witness Signature of Authorised Person
..... Name of Witness Name of Authorised Person
..... Office Held Office Held

Signed Sealed and Delivered by the Student in the presence of:

..... Signature of Witness Signature of the Student
..... Name of Witness (print name) Name of Student (print name)
..... Address of Witness	