

Vaccinations, Samples and Tests Required from Incoming International Nursing Students

Source: Instructions by Kainuu Social Welfare and Health Care Joint Authority (Kainuun sote) 28.9.2021

These instructions apply to both Kainuun sote staff and students in practical placements within Kainuun sote.

1. Vaccinations: a vaccination certificate is required from every student.

Vaccine	Units
Boostrix - diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTaP vaccine)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compulsory in prehospital emergency services, ER, ICU and high-dependency unit, surgery department, children and young ward, children and young outpatient department, maternity and child clinics, radiology department, laboratory - The vaccine-induced protection decreases in 3-4 years; therefore, a booster is to be taken every 5 years. - There should be two years between a DT (diphtheria and tetanus) vaccination and DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis) vaccination.
Hepatitis B (3 vaccinations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommended to all employees working in health care - Incomplete vaccination series will be complemented.
MMR (2 doses) - measles, mumps and rubella	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff directly involved in patient care - Recovery from measles, mumps and rubella provides adequate immunity. - A student can begin in a placement after having taken the first dose. - Pregnancy is a contraindication to vaccination.
Polio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff and students going to or coming from at-risk countries - A list of at-risk countries is available in Finnish at Liite 8. Lista maista, joihin matkustettaessa suositellaan poliorokotetta - Terveyskirjasto
Varicella vaccine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff directly involved in patient care - Recovery from varicella provides adequate immunity.

Vaccinations in different units

Specialized health care and primary care	Measles	Varicella	Pertussis
Adult general wards	x	x	-
Children's ward, neonatal intensive care unit, delivery ward, maternity and child clinics	x	x	x
ER and prehospital emergency services	x	x	x
Outpatient departments for adults	x	x	-
Outpatient departments for children	x	x	x
Laboratory (sampling)	x	x	x
Physiotherapy, occupational therapy and imaging	x	x	1)
Social work	x	x	1)
Operative department	x	x	x
Work with people with intellectual disabilities	x	x	x

1) pertussis vaccination is required from persons working in units that constantly treat children under one year of age

Seasonal Influenza Vaccination: compulsory

An employee is responsible for taking the vaccination every year during the influenza season in accordance with the act on infectious diseases (1227/ 2016 §48).

2. Other Samples and Tests

No other samples and tests are required at the moment.

3. Tuberculosis

Chest x-ray is required from students who come from tuberculosis high burden countries and who have had unexplained cough for the past three weeks. A list of tuberculosis high burden countries is provided by the WHO at [high_tb_burdencountrylists2016-2020summary.pdf \(who.int\)](#).

Students who come from non-Nordic countries and will work with newborns must provide a chest x-ray taken less than three months before departure to Finland and a certificate of the chest x-ray in English. If the student does not have the certificate, a chest x-ray must be taken in Finland before the student can start practical training.

An examination is made, if the student

- is born in a country where the prevalence of tuberculosis is high (see the WHO list of high burden countries at [high_tb_burdencountrylists2016-2020summary.pdf \(who.int\)](#)),
- has stayed for at least 12 months or worked in health care for at least 3 months in a country where the prevalence of tuberculosis is high,
- has treated a patient with tuberculosis in any country without respiratory protective equipment,
- has had close contact with a patient with contagious pulmonary tuberculosis.

NB!

- **No jewelry, artificial or gel nails, nail polish are allowed during practical training.**
- **Skin on the hands must be intact.**