

Vaccinations, Samples and Tests Required from Incoming International Nursing Students

Source: Instructions by Kainuu Wellbeing Services County

These instructions apply to both staff and students in practical placements within Kainuu Wellbeing Services County.

1. Vaccinations: an international vaccination certificate is required from every student.

Vaccination	Units
COVID-19	It is strongly recommended that every employee and student working in any hospital unit has received three doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.
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 and young 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

A chest x-ray taken less than three months before departure to Finland and a certificate of the chest x-ray in English are required from students who come from tuberculosis high burden countries such Kenya or Uganda 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_burden-countrylists2016-2020summary.pdf \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/high-tb-burden-country-lists-2016-2020-summary).

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_burden-countrylists2016-2020summary.pdf \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/high-tb-burden-country-lists-2016-2020-summary)),
- 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.**