

UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH – FACULTY OF HEALTH

(Dental / Paramedic / Urgent & Emergency Care Courses)

GUIDANCE NOTE for PROSPECTIVE STUDENT APPLICANTS 2021 Health Assessment & Blood Borne Virus Clearance

Part of the course application process is to complete a Pre-Course Health Screening Questionnaire (Form), which is assessed by the Faculty of Health's occupational health provider at University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust. Once your form has been assessed, both you and the Faculty of Health will be notified of the outcome. Submitting the form enables us to:

- Identify any health problems or disabilities that may make the proposed course difficult or unsafe for you or others.
- Assess what adjustments to the course may be needed, to enable you to study, if you have a health problem or disability.
- Protect, maintain and improve your health and wellbeing.

The form requires details of your vaccination and immunisation history. Therefore, before starting to fill out your form:

- Contact your GP surgery and request a copy of any vaccination/immunisation history that they hold about you (especially MMR).
- If you have worked in healthcare previously, request a certificate of your immunisations from the occupational health department/provider of the organisation you worked for.
- Scan these documents into a pdf file, ready to upload to the portal alongside your form.

**Your completed form and supporting documents must be submitted via the portal by
Wednesday 30th June 2021**

Student training can involve contact with infectious patients, and an infection you might have could be passed to a patient. You are required to demonstrate your freedom from infection from Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV before you can commence your studies. Please note, we cannot accept tests undertaken by GPs.

For prospective student applicants resident in Devon or Cornwall

The Faculty of Health's occupational health provider at University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust will be able to undertake the blood tests for you. To book an appointment, email plh-tr.OccHealth-preplacementscreening@nhs.net. Title the email 'FoH Prospective Student – Blood Screening Appointment' and include your full name, date of birth, contact address and telephone number. Bring this guidance note to your appointment, together with photographic evidence of your identity (eg passport, photocard driving licence) to validate the blood sample and results.

For prospective student applicants resident in other UK counties

To help you achieve the required clearance at a location closer to where you live, arrangements have been made for Spire Healthcare's phlebotomy and pathology services to undertake the tests for these blood borne viruses. Spire Healthcare has hospitals across the UK. A list of the participating Spire Healthcare hospitals and their contact details is included at the end of this guidance note.

In order to minimise any delay in the course selection process, contact your preferred Spire hospital as soon as possible and book a BBV blood screening appointment. The Spire Service User Request Form is provided with this guidance note. Enter your first name, surname, date of birth, gender and address in the relevant sections and print a paper copy of it to take to your appointment, together with this guidance note and photographic evidence of your identity (eg passport, photocard driving licence) to validate the blood sample and results.

For prospective student applicants resident outside UK/Ireland

Please undergo the requested tests in your home country and upload the results to your portal account. Please note that, in line with UK Department of Health Standards, we will require you to have the tests repeated should you subsequently enrol onto the course.

The Faculty of Health will be responsible for the blood screening charges. You will not have to pay anything on attendance at either a Spire Hospital or University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust. The results of the tests from a Spire hospital appointment will be sent confidentially from the Spire laboratory to the Faculty's occupational health provider at University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust.

No details will be passed on to the Faculty other than a medical recommendation on fitness to pursue the course from the occupational health provider. Your GP will not routinely be informed of your tests or results.

All Applicants: by **25th June 2021**, email the Faculty of Health's admissions team at meddent-admissions@plymouth.ac.uk and advise them how you have arranged your BBV screening using the format below. Failure to provide this information by the deadline date may result in non-confirmation of your place on the programme.

Dear Faculty of Health Admissions Team

I have made arrangements to have my BBV blood tests undertaken at:

The Spire Hospital in (town/city):

My home country of:

At the OH department at University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust.

Date attending:

Your name:

Your UCAS ID Number:

CONSENT

By completing the Service User Request Form (for those using Spire) and attending your blood screening appointment (all applicants), you are confirming that:

- You have been provided with explanatory notes (this guidance note), which you have read and understood.
- You consent to the tests for Hepatitis B surface antigen, Hepatitis C antibodies and HIV antibodies 1 & 2 being undertaken.
- If there is a positive result to the Hepatitis C antibodies test, you consent to a Hepatitis C RNA PCR test being undertaken and your sample being retained and used for such further testing if required.
- You consent to the results of the above tests being available to the Faculty of Health's occupational health provider at University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust.
- You understand that declining the tests or a positive result is likely to preclude you from the course.

PLEASE NOTE:

MMR: to be protected, you should have documentary evidence of having received 2 doses of MMR, or blood tests showing antibodies to measles and rubella. If you have had only 1 dose, then an MMR booster will be recommended.

Varicella: to be protected, you should have a history of having had chickenpox or shingles, or 2 varicella immunisations, or a blood test to denote antibodies present.

Hepatitis B: to be protected, you should have documentary evidence of a course of 3 (or more) hepatitis b immunisations, followed by blood tests to denote presence of antibodies.

TB: it is not routinely given to children in the UK but you may already be protected against TB by means of a BCG vaccine. The BCG vaccine gives about 50% protection against TB and is recommended for healthcare workers, especially those most likely to be exposed to the infection. It is not highly contagious and, in most circumstances, prolonged, close contact is required for it to spread. Due to a long period of BCG vaccine shortages, you may not get a BCG as part of your induction but are likely to be offered it later.

Enhanced TB Screening: if you or a family member has ever had TB, or you live or have ever lived in a country or an area of the UK where there is a high incidence of TB (greater than 40/100,000 of the population), please arrange to have a Quantiferon blood test (or a chest x-ray) undertaken and upload the results to your portal account.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

These FAQs are in relation to the BBV tests. Whilst these tests are becoming more frequent in healthcare, we do recognise that they sometimes cause anxiety. A useful summary of the issues may be found on the website of the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (www.bashh.org).

Please read the following to ensure that you understand the facts about the tests you are being asked to undergo:

Q: Why does the Faculty of Health require me to have the tests?

A: The Faculty follows the Department of Health's Best Practice Guidance, issued in March 2007. The nature of dental work and emergency care is such that there is a risk of transmission from an infected healthcare worker to a patient – so additional checks are necessary to protect patients.

Q. Why otherwise have the tests?

A. Treatment is available for people with these infections and it is better to have treatment before serious symptoms develop. Only by knowing that you are infected, do you have the choice of using these treatments before you get ill. These treatments have been shown to reduce dramatically the risk of serious illness and early death. If you know that you have an infection, you can also take steps to reduce the risk of passing it on to others, including unborn children.

Q. What if I am found to have an infection?

A. In the case of a positive result, you will be contacted. This will be followed up by occupational health, to discuss matters further and arrange for a referral and support locally to you, if appropriate.

Q. How long does it take before the infection will show up in my blood sample?

A. Generally between a few weeks and a few months. If you are in an at-risk group (see above), any results should be checked 3 months after the last exposure to the risk (the "window period").

Q. Have I been at risk – how are these viruses transmitted?

A. Risks for testing positive include:

Hepatitis B: sexual intercourse, sharing IV drug misuse equipment, bites or close family contact with an infected person; caring for children from a country with a high prevalence of hepatitis B; being a regular recipient of blood products, on renal dialysis or having chronic liver disease; working with individuals with learning difficulties and any clinical/laboratory health care and emergency services work.

Hepatitis C: having had unscreened blood or plasma products, sharing IV drug misuse equipment, surgical type treatment or participation in health care work abroad in high-risk countries, unprotected sexual exposure, tattoos and body piercing.

HIV: unprotected intercourse with persons from countries where HIV is common; being exposed to surgical type treatments or health care work with risk cases or in high-risk countries and, if male, unprotected sexual intercourse with another man.

Q. What are the drawbacks of having this test?

A. If your results do show that you have an infection, the benefits of knowing this result usually outweigh any drawbacks. These drawbacks may include worries about relationships with family and friends. Travel to some countries is currently restricted for people who know they have HIV.

Q. Is the result confidential?

A. Yes. Your confidentiality will be protected according to Occupational Health, General Medical Council and Nursing Council standards.

Q. When will I get the results?

A. Results are normally available after a week.

Q. Will it affect my chance of getting life insurance?

A. You do not need to report negative tests when writing insurance reports. Insurance companies should no longer ask whether you have had an HIV test, but only enquire whether or not you are HIV positive. People who know they are infected with HIV should not have difficulty obtaining new life insurance; this should also apply to mortgage applications. The same comments may apply for Hepatitis C. See also Association of British Insurers, Statement of best practice on HIV and insurance. www.abi.org.uk.

Q. If positive, what does it mean for working in healthcare?

A. Subject to the results of confirmatory and additional tests if needed, you may be allowed to work in healthcare or undertake surgically-related activities.

Spire Hospitals for BBV Screening and Telephone Numbers for Appointment Booking

1. **Birmingham:** Spire Parkway Hospital, 1 Damson Parkway, Solihull, B91 2PP, 0121 704 5530
2. **Blackpool:** Spire Fylde Coast Hospital, St Walburgas Road, FY3 8BP, 01253 308 031
3. **Brentwood:** Spire Hartswood Hospital, Eagle Way, CM13 3LE, 01277 266 761
4. **Brighton:** The Montefiore Spire Hospital, 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, BN3 1RD, 01273 828 120
5. **Bristol:** Spire Bristol Hospital, Redland Hill, BS6 6UT, 0177 980 4080
6. **Bushey:** Spire Bushey Hospital, Heathbourne Road, WD23 1RD, 0208 901 5505
7. **Cambridge:** Spire Cambridge Lea Hospital, 30 New Road, Impington, CB23 9EL, 01223 266 929
8. **Cardiff:** Spire Cardiff Hospital, Croescadarn Road, Pentwyn, CV23 8XL, 029 2054 2509
9. **Chatham:** Spire Alexandra Hospital, Impton Lane, ME5 9PG, 01634 662 866
10. **Cheam:** Spire St Anthony's Hospital, 801 London Road, Sutton, SM3 9DW, 0208 337 6691
11. **Edinburgh:** Spire Murrayfield Hospital, 122 Corstorphine Road, EH12 6UD, 0131 316 2507
12. **Elland:** Spire Elland Hospital, Elland Lane, HX5 9EB, 01422 324 065
13. **Farnham:** Spire Clare Park Hospital, Crondall Lane, GU10 5XX, 01252 895 490
14. **Gatwick:** Spire Gatwick Park Hospital, Povey Cross Road, Horley, RH6 0BB, 01293 778 906
15. **Harpenden:** Spire Harpenden Hospital, Ambrose Lane, AL5 4BP, 01582 714 420
16. **Hull:** Spire Hull and East Riding Hospital, Lowfield Road, Anlaby, HU10 7AZ, 01482 672 412
17. **Leeds:** Spire Leeds Hospital, Jackson Avenue, Roundhay, LS8 1NT, 0113 218 5977 / 67
18. **Leeds:** Spire Methley Park Hospital, Methley Lane, Methley, LS26 9HG, 01977 664 245
19. **Leicester:** Spire Leicester Hospital, Gartree Road, Oadby, LE2 2FF, 0116 265 3021
20. **Liverpool:** Spire Liverpool Hospital, 57 Greenbank Road, L18 1HQ, 0151 522 1805
21. **Macclesfield:** Spire Regency Hospital, West Street, SK11 8DW, 01625 505 412
22. **Manchester:** Spire Manchester Hospital, 170 Barlow Moor Road, Didsbury, M20 2AF, 0161 232 2303
23. **Norwich:** Spire Norwich Hospital, Old Watton Road, Colney, NR4 7TD, 01603 255 614
24. **Nottingham:** Spire Nottingham Hospital, Tollerton Lane, Tollerton, NG12 4GA, 0115 828 1696
25. **Portsmouth:** Spire Portsmouth Hospital, Bartons Road, Havant, PO9 5NP, 023 9245 6172
26. **Reading:** Spire Dunedin Hospital, Bath Road, RG1 6NS, 0800 328 3026
27. **Redbridge:** Spire London East Hospital, Roding Lane South, IG4 5PZ, 0208 709 7817
28. **Southampton:** Spire Southampton Hospital, Chalybeate Close, SO16 6UY, 023 8091 4471
29. **Southend-on-Sea:** Spire Wellesley Hospital, Eastern Avenue, SS2 4XH, 01702 447 926
30. **Sutton Coldfield:** Spire Little Aston Hospital, Little Aston Hall Drive, B74 3UP, 0121 580 7119
31. **Tunbridge Wells:** Spire Tunbridge Wells Hospital, Fordcombe Road, Fordcombe, TN3 0RD, 01892 741 150
32. **Warrington:** Spire Cheshire Hospital, Fir Tree Close, Stretton, WA4 4LU, 01925 215 029
33. **Washington:** Spire Washington Hospital, Picktree Lane, Rickleton, NE38 9JZ, 0191 418 8687
34. **Wexham:** Spire Thames Valley Hospital, Wexham Street, SL3 6NH, 01753 665 404
35. **Wirral:** Spire Murrayfield Hospital, Holmwood Drive, Thingwall, CH61 1AU, 0151 929 5408
36. **Worcester:** Spire South Bank Hospital, 139 Bath Road, WR5 3YB, 01905 362 252
37. **Wrexham:** Spire Yale Hospital, Wrexham Technology Park, LL13 7YP, 01978 262 462