

# Higher Education Infectious Disease Status – Dental Student Fact Sheet



## Introduction

This fact sheet should be read in conjunction with the [Higher Education Infectious Disease Status – Dental Student Form](#).

Combined, these documents relate to the prevention and control of infectious diseases whereby TAFE Queensland staff, students and other relevant persons have an obligation and duty of care for the safety of themselves and to others under both common law, the [Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011 \(Qld\)](#), [Public Health Regulation 2018](#) (Schedule 1) and the [Public Health Act 2005 \(Qld\)](#).

These persons must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of all persons, which includes to minimise the risk of spreading or contracting infectious diseases and to manage occupational exposures to infectious diseases as a result of involvement in such areas as (the list is not intended to be exhaustive):

- working with infectious organisms;
- working with human blood or body fluids;
- clinical work with humans (including work undertaken by students on clinical placement in either TAFE Queensland operated clinics or facilities, including healthcare facilities, run by external organisations);
- First Aid;
- cleaning and maintenance;
- overseas travel.

## The Dental Board of Australia

The Dental Board of Australia's infection control guidelines states that every dental practitioner and student must:

- ensure the premises in which he or she practises are kept in a clean and hygienic state to prevent or minimise the spread of infectious diseases
- ensure that, in attending a patient, client or consumer, he or she takes such steps as are practicable to prevent or minimise the spread of infectious diseases
- act in accordance with the requirements set out in the four documents referred to in Section 1 Documentation of the Infection Control Guideline (page 1).
- be aware of his or her infection status for blood borne viruses, seek expert advice appropriate for a dental practitioner infected with a blood borne virus, for example expert medical advice or advisory panel if diagnosed with a blood-borne virus and cease to perform exposure-prone procedures if viraemic (refer <https://www.dentalboard.gov.au/codes-guidelines/policies-codes-guidelines.aspx>).

Furthermore, "Applicants for initial registration or renewal of registration as a dental practitioner or student will be required to make a declaration that:

- they are aware of their infection status for blood borne viruses and
- that they will comply with the Communicable Diseases Network Australia's *Australian National Guidelines for the Management of Health Care Workers known to be infected with Blood-Borne Viruses* and
- that they will comply with the requirements of the Dental Board of Australia's Guidelines on infection control (refer <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cda-cdna-bloodborne.htm>)".

Registered students living with a blood borne viruses who perform exposure-prone procedures can continue in their course of study if they comply with the Communicable Diseases Network Australia guidelines.

**In relation to above, you will need to provide consent and a declaration in regards to your infection status for blood-borne viruses.**

## Consent

The Dental Board of Australia's application for registration refers to the need for consent. Consent is required to be provided in a number of circumstances and situations, the following are examples of consent which you will need to provide as a student and/or as an applicant for registration.

Examples:

- If I provide the Board details of an English language test I have completed, I authorise the Board to use the information I provide to verify those results with the test provider. I understand the test provider may be overseas.
- I consent to the Board and AHPRA making enquiries of, and exchanging information with, the authorities of any Australian state or territory, or other country, regarding my practice as a health practitioner or otherwise regarding matters relevant to this application (for registration).
- I authorise the Board to obtain my criminal history in Australia and overseas. I understand that:
  - a complete criminal history, including resolved and unresolved charges, spent convictions, and findings of guilt for which no conviction was recorded, will be released to the Board, and
  - information will be extracted from this form and used for the purpose of criminal history checking. This information may be used by Australian police services for law enforcement purposes including the investigation of any outstanding criminal offences.
- I acknowledge that:
  - the Board may validate documents provided in support of this application as evidence of my identity; and
  - failure to complete all relevant sections of this application and to enclose all supporting documentation may result in this application not being accepted.
- I undertake to comply with all relevant legislation and Board registration standards, codes, and guidelines.
- I confirm that I have:
  - met the English language skills pathway requirements indicated on this form, and
  - read the privacy and confidentiality statement for this form. I declare that:  
*I am aware of my infection status for blood-borne viruses and I will comply with the Communicable Diseases Network Australia's Australian National Guidelines for the Management of Health Care Workers known to be infected with Blood-Borne Viruses and with the requirements of the Board's Infection Control Guidelines in relation to blood-borne viruses*
  - the above statements, and the documents provided in support of this application, are true and correct, and
  - I am the person named in the attached documents.
- I make this declaration in the knowledge that a false statement is grounds for the Board to refuse registration.
- I am aware that personal information that I provide may be given to a third party for regulatory

purposes, consistent with the National Law.

## **The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)**

The Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare (2010) Guidelines

Section C3 .1 Universities and training colleges, states that;

- All healthcare workers need to understand the basis and importance of infection prevention and control. Up-to-date information on infection prevention and control basics, policy, procedures, quality assurance and incident monitoring should be included in the curriculum of all undergraduate and postgraduate courses in health-related areas.
- Universities and training colleges also have an obligation to inform prospective students about the impact that particular infections may have on their ability to complete the course and engage in the full spectrum of clinical practice after graduation (see Section C2). This information should include advice about specific measures, including immunisation, that reduce the risk of acquiring infection. (Refer [Australian-guidelines for the prevention and control of infection in healthcare \(2010\)](#))

## **Definitions**

**Blood-borne viruses** (BBVs) for the purposes of the Dental Board Guidelines are HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), HBV (hepatitis B virus) and HCV (hepatitis C virus)

**Exposure prone procedure** - Procedures where there is a risk of injury to the healthcare worker resulting in exposure of the patient's open tissues to the blood of the healthcare worker. These procedures include those where the healthcare worker's hands (whether gloved or not) may be in contact with sharp instruments, needle tips or sharp tissues (spicules of bone or teeth) inside a patient's open body cavity, wound or confined anatomical space where the hands or fingertips may not be completely visible at all times.