

## Survey for international students in healthcare and social welfare in accordance with the Communicable Diseases Act

Responsibility area: Health and nursing services

Unit: Student health care of Siun sote

Approved/Verified: 16.9.2024

Student healthcare participates in the prevention and screening of infectious diseases. Employers in the healthcare and social welfare sector have a statutory obligation to ask employees and trainees for a reliable statement on their suitability in accordance with the Communicable Diseases Act. Providing a statement on suitability to your employee is voluntary. However, your traineeship may be cancelled if the employer does not receive a reliable statement on your vaccination protection or a statement confirming that you do not have tuberculosis. Vaccinations and examinations offered to you are free of charge and voluntary.

This survey evaluates tuberculosis risk factors and vaccine protection to assess your suitability for practical training in the healthcare and social welfare sector. Please return this survey to Siun sote student healthcare at least two months before you arrive in Finland. Also attach your ID and any vaccination certificates. For more detailed instructions, see the Siun sote website: <https://www.siunsote.fi/en/web/english/international-students>. The information on this survey is treated as confidential.

### Basic information

**Last name:**

**First name:**

**Date of birth** (dd/mm/yy):

**Gender:**

**Male   Female   Other**

**Nationality:**

**Mother tongue:**

**Address in the home country:**

**Address in Finland**

(if already known):

**Phone number:**

**E-mail:**

**Duration of studies in Finland:**

**Field of study:**

**Campus:**

**Tuberculosis**

Under section 55 of the Communicable Diseases Act (1227/2016), employers are obliged to require a reliable statement from employees or trainees working in a healthcare or social welfare unit or caring for children under school age to confirm that they do not have respiratory tuberculosis. The purpose of the statement is to prevent the spread of respiratory tuberculosis.

If you are in a tuberculosis risk group, you must undergo a tuberculosis health check. In that event, you will be referred to examinations that include a thorax x-ray. All of the examinations are free of charge. The examinations must be carried out in Finland prior to participating in any practical training in the healthcare or social welfare sector.

**Have you suffered from any of the following symptoms?**

Prolonged, cough lasting over 3 weeks

No

Yes

Mucus or blood with cough

No

Yes

Fever of unknown origin

No

Yes

Fatigue and tiredness

No

Yes

Nausea

No

Yes

Abnormal sweating at night

No

Yes

Abnormal weight loss

No

Yes

**Your country of birth:**

**Countries in which you have lived or stayed continuously for at least 12 months:**

**Countries in which you have worked in health care continuously for at least 3 months:**

**Have you treated tuberculosis patients in any country?**

No

Yes

**Have you been in close contact with a person who had pulmonary tuberculosis (e.g., those living in the same household, relatives, friends)?**

No

Yes

**Have you had tuberculosis before?**

No

Yes

## Vaccinations

The purpose of vaccinations is to protect patients, customers, students and employees. Section 48 of the Finnish Communicable Diseases Act (1227/2016) defines certain requirements for employees and students in the healthcare and social welfare sector. The requirements for social welfare and healthcare sector are listed below:

**Varicella:** A personal history of varicella (chickenpox) or two vaccine doses to protect against the disease is required. The minimum interval between the vaccine doses is three months.

**Measles:** A personal history of measles or two vaccine doses to protect against the disease is required. If you received your first vaccine dose when you were under 11 months old, you will need a total of three doses. The minimum interval between the vaccine doses is 6 months. The best protection is achieved with a minimum interval of 2–3 years between vaccine doses.

**Influenza:** Vaccination protection against influenza is required annually. A personal history of influenza or previous influenza vaccination does not protect against the disease during subsequent seasons, as viruses are constantly changing.

**Pertussis:** If you will be continuously working with children under 1 year of age, you must have been vaccinated against pertussis within the last five years.

Please make sure that your vaccination protection meets the requirements above. If your vaccination protection is inadequate, take the required vaccines in your home country. Request an English-language certificate on your vaccinations and submit it along with this survey. If necessary, your vaccination protection can be supplemented in Finland. In practical training, it is enough to provide a verbal assurance to your employer that your vaccination protection is in accordance with the Communicable Diseases Act.

**Varicella (chicken pox):**

**I have received two doses of vaccine against varicella.**

Yes

Date of first vaccination:

Date of second vaccination:

No

Not sure

**I have had varicella.**

Yes

The year I had varicella\*:

No

Not sure

\* If you had varicella under the age of 1 and your symptoms were very mild, you may not have adequate protection against the disease. In this event, you will need varicella vaccinations.

**Measles:**

**I have received two doses of vaccine against measles. The vaccine may have been the measles vaccine, measles and rubella vaccine (MR) or measles, mumps and rubella vaccine (MMR).**

Yes

Date of first vaccination:

Date of second vaccination:

Date of third vaccination:

No

Not sure

**I have had measles.**

Yes

The year I had measles:

No

Not sure

**Influenza:**

The vaccine is taken before the influenza season or during the season at the latest prior to starting your practical training. In Finland, the influenza season typically lasts from December to the end of May. Vaccines are available in Finland during the influenza season.

**I have received the influenza vaccine this season:**

Yes

Date of vaccination:

No

**Pertussis:**

The vaccine is only required for those who continuously work with children under the age of 1 in maternity and children's clinics or pediatric and neonatal wards, for example. The vaccine should be administered close to the start of your practical training because the protection weakens quickly in the next 3–4 years. If you will be participating in this kind of practical training during your studies in Finland, please contact your public health nurse once you have been accepted to practical training. You can always reach out to your public health nurse if you are unsure whether you need vaccination protection against pertussis in your practical training location.

**Hepatitis B:**

You can receive the Hepatitis B vaccine series in Finland. If you have had Hepatitis B or had at least 3 doses of vaccination against it, you do not need the vaccine series. If your stay in Finland is less than two months and you wish to be vaccinated, you will have to pay for the vaccination yourself.

By returning this survey, I affirm that the information I have provided is correct.