

Q FEVER INFORMATION

Risks & Immunisations

All students enrolled in the Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/DVM, Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Bioscience or the graduate entry DVM must be immunologically protected against infection with Q Fever. This requires initially testing, and then if required, a vaccination against Q Fever. This is a compulsory requirement for participation in activities and failure to provide evidence of the Q Fever Vaccination may result in inability to progress and complete all the inherent aspects of the course.

During the course of your study certain hazards may be encountered. These arise from participation in practical classes or laboratories directed towards study of biological, chemical and physical phenomena and fall into three main categories:

- (i) Laboratory accidents.
- (ii) Exposure to infective agents in handling animals, animal products or samples.
- (iii) Damage by animals whilst managing or treating them.

The University has appropriate insurance covering students whilst on work experience or carrying out academic activities.

It is the responsibility of students to obtain protection against TETANUS AND Q FEVER

Q Fever Screening and Vaccination

Professional accreditation requires students to complete compulsory components of the program in order to graduate. This will include attending practical classes visiting abattoirs, undertaking placements in a variety of settings, all of which will mean the students comes into contact with animals. This contact and visits may expose students to the risk of infection with Q Fever. For further information about Q fever, please visit the Australian Q Fever Register website: <http://www.qfever.org/aboutqfever.php>

The safety of our students during their studies at the University of Sydney is extremely important to the Faculty and it is a condition of access to these sites that students must be vaccinated against Q Fever. Failure to produce evidence of screening and vaccination will result in students being unable to complete required components of the course.

Please Note:

While it is very rare in some instances students may have an adverse reaction to this vaccination. This can be minimised by ensuring that prior to receiving the vaccination a serology and skin test are undertaken to determine if the vaccination can be given. Importantly, the Faculty recommends the vaccination is administered by a practitioner who has experience with Q Fever vaccinations and is registered with the Q Fever registry. An example of some practitioners is provided below.

The screening and vaccination process takes at approximately 7-8 days to complete, and will cost approximately \$A150. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange and pay for the screening and vaccination. The Faculty recommends that students arrange appointments with a health care provider qualified to perform Q fever screening and vaccination as soon as possible after enrolling for the course. **Students must provide evidence of their vaccination status to the Faculty by no later than week 2 of commencing the program.**

Students can arrange screening and vaccination through the following health care providers:

Registered Practitioner	Business title	Address	Phone number
Dr Susan Willis	University Health Service	Wentworth Building G01, The University of Sydney	9351 3484

Dr S Prabhu Dr M Prabhu	International Travel Vaccination Centre	37 Bligh Street Sydney NSW 2000	1300 557 070
Dr Song-He Nam Dr Sean Low Dr Timothy Diep	Hyde Park Medical Centre	175 Liverpool Street Sydney NSW 2000	02 9283 1234
Dr Clare Wood Dr Pamela Goodwin Dr Amgad (Mike) Shenouda	Sonic Health Plus	Level 32, 60 Margaret Street Sydney NSW 2000	02 9321 9100

This is not an exhaustive list, please contact your preferred provider to find out if they are able to perform this service or use the Australian Q Fever Register “find a vaccinator” service.

Australian Q Fever Register

The Faculty requires all students to register their Q Fever immune status with the [Australian Q Fever Register](#). The Australian Q Fever Register keeps a secure online record of Q Fever immune status of individuals. The Register has several advantages for both students and faculty. Most importantly, the Q Fever Register provides a lifetime record of your immune status. Should you be required to provide evidence of immunity to Q fever in the future (for example as a workplace health and safety requirement) you will be able to refer your employer or doctor to the Register where they will be able to confirm your status. This avoids unnecessary testing and vaccination of people who are already immune which carries significant risks.

How it works:

- Students post their Q Fever Screening and Vaccination certificates to the Q Fever Register using their [Personal Details and Consent Form](#).
- The Australian Q Fever Register will issue students a plastic Q Fever Registration Card with a registration number on it.
- Registered employers and doctors can look up your record using this registration number (but only if you give them the number).

Next Steps:

1. If you have not been tested/vaccinated you need to see the University Health Service or other registered vaccinator to undergo testing and vaccination (as indicated).
2. Following vaccination, complete the Personal Details and Consent form to submit your details to the Register. Students who have evidence of prior immunity should still complete the Consent Form. The Consent Form and supporting document should be posted to the Register. *If you need to expedite your registration you could fax to the Register before posting the Consent Form and supporting document.*
3. When you receive your Q Fever Registration Card, you must advise the faculty of your registration number via the Virtual Veterinary Campus (VVC). Access to the VVC and details on how this should be done will be provided early in semester one.

Key Points about Q Fever

- ❖ All students in the Faculty of Veterinary Science are at risk of contracting Q Fever during compulsory course activities
- ❖ Q Fever immunisation is available and required for this course
- ❖ Screening and immunisation take at least 7-8 days and costs approximately \$150 - \$250. Activation of the vaccine takes approximately two weeks.
- ❖ It is the responsibility of the student to arrange and pay for Q Fever immunisation and screening
- ❖ All students should make an appointment with a health care provider who is registered to provide Q Fever Vaccinations as soon as possible
- ❖ All students must provide evidence of vaccination