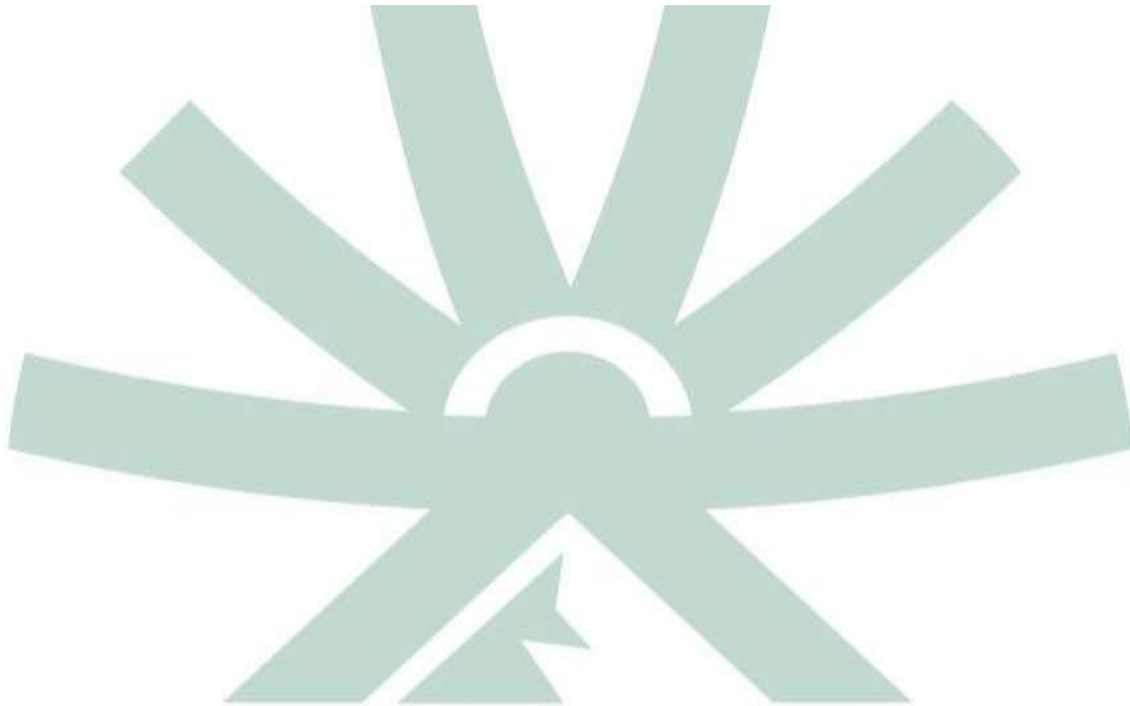




AHSU
AFRICA HEALTH
SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

Hepatitis B Immunization Policy



Policy Code: AHSU/006/2024

Version: 1.0

Effective Date: 13 December 2024

Review Date: 12 December 2027 (or earlier if required)

Policy Owner: Vice Chancellor Office

Responsible Offices: Student Welfare Directorate, HR Directorate, Dean's Office

Applies To: All AHSU students (undergraduates and postgraduates)



TABLE OF CONTENT

Purpose	3
Scope	3
Policy Statement	3
Policy details	3
Policy Review	5
Approval and signatures	6



Purpose

To protect students, residents, staff, patients, and the wider community by ensuring comprehensive prevention of Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) transmission across all Africa Health Sciences University (AHSU) academic and clinical programs through mandatory screening, appropriate follow-up for those who test positive, immunization for those who test negative, and proper post-exposure management.

Scope

This policy applies to:

1. **Undergraduate students:** Enrolled in programs with clinical or laboratory exposure
2. **Postgraduate Programs:** Internship and residency programs
3. **Academic staff:** Involved in teaching, supervision, or research with clinical or laboratory exposure
4. **Clinical staff and employees:** Working in patient care, laboratories, or exposure-prone environments

Policy Statement

All individuals covered under this policy must demonstrate immunity to Hepatitis B before engaging in any clinical, laboratory, or exposure-prone activities affiliated with AHSU or its partner institutions.

Participation in clinical or laboratory activities without documented compliance is strictly prohibited.

Policy details

1. Screening

- a. Hepatitis B surface antibody (anti-HBs) screening must be done before vaccination
- b. Individuals who test positive for HBV shall receive appropriate medical care and follow-up, with full respect for confidentiality and non-discrimination.

2. Vaccination Schedule

- a. Completion of the full Hepatitis B vaccination series is mandatory, consisting of three doses, or four doses for immunocompromised individuals.
- b. An accelerated schedule may be accepted where clinically appropriate, in accordance with national guidelines.

3. Proof of Immunity

Acceptable documentation includes:

- A. Official vaccination record/card
- B. Occupational health or hospital immunization record
- C. **Laboratory evidence of immunity (anti-HBs ≥ 10 mIU/mL)**

4. Serologic Testing

- A. Individuals without documented vaccination must undergo Hepatitis B surface antibody (anti-HBs) testing.
- B. Anti-HBs < 10 mIU/mL requires:
 - a. Completion (or repetition) of the full vaccination series
 - b. Post-vaccination serologic testing 2 months after the final dose

5. Non-Responders

- A. Individuals who fail to develop protective antibody levels after two full vaccination series will be classified as vaccine non-responders.
- B. Non-responders must receive counseling on risk reduction and will be managed according to occupational health guidelines.

6. Post-Exposure Management

In the event of occupational exposure (needle stick injury, blood or body fluid exposure):

- A. Immediate reporting to the designated Occupational Health Unit at the assigned teaching hospital
- B. Prompt clinical evaluation and documentation
- C. Administration of Hepatitis B immunoglobulin (HBIG) and/or vaccination as indicated
- D. Follow-up testing and counseling per national and institutional protocols

7. Exemptions

- A. Medical exemptions may be granted based on certified contraindications.
- B. Exemption requests must be supported by formal medical documentation and reviewed by AHSU Occupational Health Services.

8. Compliance and Enforcement

- A. Compliance is a mandatory condition for enrollment, employment, rotation placement, and continued participation in clinical or laboratory activities.
- B. Non-compliant individuals may face:
 - a. Suspension from clinical duties
 - b. Delay in program progression or graduation
 - c. Restriction of employment duties

9. Education and Awareness

AHSU will provide ongoing education on:

- A. Hepatitis B transmission and prevention
- B. Occupational exposure risks
- C. Infection prevention and control practices
- D. Rights and responsibilities related to occupational health

10. Confidentiality

- A. Individuals diagnosed with chronic Hepatitis **B** should not face stigma, academic penalties, **or** employment discrimination.
- B. Their medical information should be handled confidentially through occupational health services, and decisions regarding participation in exposure prone activities should be guided by medical assessment and national guidelines rather than punitive measures.

11. Roles and Responsibilities

- A. Students and Residents: Ensure timely compliance and reporting of exposure incidents
- B. Staff and Faculty: Maintain immunization status and model compliance
- C. AHSU Occupational Health Services: Verification, record-keeping, counseling, and post-exposure management
- D. Program Directors and Department Heads: Enforcement of policy compliance and establish a centralized system for documentation and monitoring of immunization status and occupational exposures.

Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed every three (3) years or earlier if required by changes in national guidelines, public health evidence, or regulatory requirements.

Approval and signatures

Names	Role	Signature	Date
Dr Belise Uwurukundo	Registrar		3 December 2024
Jean Luc Ishimwe	Human Resources & Administrative Manager		8 December 2024
Dr. Edgar Kalimba	Dean of School of Medicine		13 December 2024
Dr. Zerihun Abebe	Vice Chancellor		13 December 2024

