

Staff Health and Wellbeing Service (SHAWS)

Dear Prospective Employee

NSW Health has released a policy: 'Occupational Assessment, Screening & Vaccination Against Specified Infectious Diseases'. This policy mandates that all new employees are 'protected' against the specified infectious diseases prior to employment.

This policy is about protecting our most valuable resource, our staff. The benefits to you of being 'protected' are that:

- you will be safe in the event of an outbreak of any of these diseases,
- you will play an important role in minimising the spread of these diseases to your family and friends, and to the patients, clients and customers of SWAHS, and
- you will assist in the wider control of these diseases in not only your local community, but across the state, throughout Australia and internationally as well.

So, it is important if you are considering employment at SWAHS, in order to prevent any delay in the recruitment process should you be a preferred candidate, that you immediately act on ensuring you are compliant.

In summary the policy requires you to provide evidence that you are 'protected' against following diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, measles, mumps, rubella and chicken pox. The policy also requires you to provide evidence of a tuberculosis assessment within the previous twelve months. There are specific criteria to prove 'protection' and they are included in the Evidence of Protection Against Specified Infectious Diseases included with this information.

For those who are unsure of their 'protection' status, the easiest way to prove 'protected' is to visit your General Practitioner. Once you have your evidence, you need only to provide a copy of the evidence to SWAHS when you are returning your application package, and it will be assessed and your status recorded.

Should you wish to read the policy document: PD 2007_006, it can be found on the NSW Health website: www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2007/PD2007_006.html.

Should you have any questions regarding this initiative, please do not hesitate to contact SWAHS.

Good luck with your job hunting!

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