This information sheet outlines the requirements for all staff to comply with the Sinai Health Immunization & Surveillance Policy, which is based upon the OMA/OHA Communicable Disease Surveillance Protocols for Ontario Hospitals. The attached Immunization Record is to be completed by either a *physician or, if appropriate, the Occupational Health Nurse* at your previous employer and must be returned to Occupational Health (OH) by fax to **416-470-6725** no later than 12pm two business days prior to your start date.

**No Staff will be allowed to start work without clearance through OH**. Any exceptions to this policy must be approved in writing by the Senior Manager of OH and the Director of Infection Control following the completion of a risk assessment.

**Tuberculosis:**

* Staff are required to have had a documented **2-step** tuberculosis skin test done prior to their start date. This involves the planting of a tuberculosis skin test in the forearm and having it read by a physician or Occupational Health Nurse 2-3 days later. If negative, the process will be repeated in the other arm 1-3 weeks later. If the 2-step tuberculosis skin test was done more than 12 months prior to their start date, the result of a 1-step tuberculosis skin test must be provided. **If 1st or 2nd test is positive, (i.e. greater than 10mm induration), a chest x-ray is required. Chest x-ray must have been completed within the last year.** The 2-step skin test identifies the truly positiveskin test. It is essential to have accurate baseline information at the beginning of your placement as this is the comparison that is used in the event of an exposure. Testing is required despite having a past history of vaccination for TB (called BCG).
* Individuals who have a documented positive skin test are required to submit the results of a chest x-ray completed within the current calendar year.
* TB tests are safe to have while pregnant.
* TB tests can be affected by some types of vaccines and should be completed **before** receiving live vaccines such as MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) or Varivax (chickenpox vaccine).

**Measles** - **Any one of the following is acceptable:**

* Documentation of receipt of 2 doses of live measles virus vaccine (or trivalent measles-mumps-rubella [MMR] vaccine) on or after the first birthday, with doses given at least four weeks apart, **OR**
* Laboratory evidence of immunity.

**Mumps - Any one of the following is acceptable:**

* Documentation of receipt of 2 doses of live mumps virus vaccine (or trivalent measles-mumps-rubella [MMR] vaccine) on or after the first birthday, with doses given at least four weeks apart, **OR**
* Laboratory evidence of immunity.

**Rubella -** **Any one of the following is acceptable:**

* Documentation of receipt of 1 dose of virus vaccine (or trivalent measles-mumps-rubella [MMR] vaccine) on or after the first birthday. **OR**
* Laboratory evidence of immunity.

**A history of having had rubella is not acceptable as this disease can be confused with other viruses.**

**Varicella (Chickenpox) – Any one of the following is acceptable:**

* Documentation of receipt of 2 doses of chickenpox vaccine, given at least 4 weeks apart, **OR**
* Laboratory evidence of immunity, **OR**
* Diagnosis or verification of a history of typical varicella (chickenpox) by a health care provider, **OR**
* Diagnosis or verification of a history of herpes zoster (shingles) by a health care provider.

**Hepatitis B Vaccine -** Highly recommended for any Staff who might have any contact with human blood or body fluids, or items contaminated with human blood or body fluids. All Staff must notify OH of their immune status (e.g. their hepatitis B surface antibody titre so that, if an exposure occurs, protective action can be taken promptly).

**Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis -** Staff who have not received a dose of pertussis vaccine as an adult should receive one dose of Tdap (Tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis vaccine for adults) prior to working in the hospital. Subsequently, Tetanus/Diphtheria Vaccine (Td) should be received every 10 years. All Staff must inform OH of their vaccination status.

**Influenza Vaccine** - Offered by OH and highly recommended for all staff annually. If you do not receive the influenza vaccination at SHS, all Staff must inform OH of their influenza vaccination status (vaccine declination for medical or personal reasons or if you received your vaccination elsewhere) on an annual basis.