



Occupational Health Service

BCG vaccination information

Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) remains common in the UK. It is likely that you will come into contact with TB when working in a healthcare environment. Your risk of being infected by TB doubles if you work in a healthcare setting.

You should have had a skin test on your forearm, which has shown that you have low or no immunity to TB, therefore it is recommended that you have a BCG vaccination to protect you against TB.

BCG provides around 70% protection against TB including the drug resistant forms of the disease.

Care of your BCG site

BCG is a 'live' vaccine, this means that the vaccine contains a weakened, living version of TB, however it is not strong enough to cause the disease. It is given just under the skin and a red lump will appear in the weeks following your vaccine. This may increase in size before settling down into a scab.

Do not cover the site with a bandage or a plaster. The site may ooze fluid, this is common. To protect your clothes use a light dressing until the oozing stops. After several weeks the scab will clear and you will be left with a small scar.

If the lump is weeping you should not go swimming. If you need to go swimming, then you must cover the injection site with a waterproof plaster whilst you are in the water.

If you are concerned about the injection site please contact the Occupational Health Advisor.

The BCG vaccination gives you high protection against TB, but is not 100% effective. If you develop an unexplained persistent cough with or

without unexplained fever, there is a possibility you may have TB. Please contact the Occupational Health Department if you develop these symptoms. For further information or advice on TB or BCG vaccinations please contact Occupational Health.

You should not have the BCG vaccine if you;

- Have an illness which affects your immunity, for example HIV or Leukaemia
- Are taking 20 milligrams or more of prednisolone, or any other immunosuppressant drugs
- Have a high temperature
- Have had a 'live' vaccine within the past 3 weeks
- Have been in contact with a case of TB in the past 6 months
- If you are pregnant

Please discuss any of the above with the Occupational Health Nurse before you sign the consent form.

Feedback

We are keen to hear your comments and ideas about improving the service. Please email the department with any comments.

If you have any concerns or feedback please email the Occupational Health Service via:

✉ OHEnquiries@uhb.nhs.uk

How to refer

To request any of the services offered by Occupational Health or to find out more, please contact your local hospital below;

Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham (Heritage Building)

3rd Floor North Block (South Corridor),
Mindelsohn Way, Birmingham, B15 2TH

Tel: 0121 371 7170

Email: OHEnquiries@uhb.nhs.uk

Heartlands Hospital

Stratford House, Bordesley Green Road,
Birmingham, B9 5SS

Tel: 0121 424 3004

Email: OHEnquiries@uhb.nhs.uk

Good Hope Hospital

23 Bedford Road, Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands, B75 6BE

Tel: 0121 424 3004

Email: OHEnquiries@uhb.nhs.uk

Solihull Hospital

Lode Lane, Solihull, B91 2JL

Tel: 0121 424 3004

Email: OHEnquiries@uhb.nhs.uk