



Memorandum

Veterinary Technician Program

Pre-Exposure Rabies Immunization

Notice to all Incoming Students

Pre-exposure rabies immunization (preventative vaccination) is conducted in order to protect individuals at high risk of contact with rabid animals. The potential contact group includes veterinarians and veterinary technicians. The Medical Officer of Health of the Windsor-Essex Health Unit (in which St. Clair College is located) has indicated that the pre-exposure rabies immunization is required for veterinary technician students.

The primary immunization regime for rabies prophylaxis involves a series of three injections over a three to four-week period. Some health plans may cover the cost of the vaccine. The cost is approximately \$600 - \$800 for the 3 mL normally required.

In order to be immunized for rabies, a student should speak with their family physician or should obtain a prescription from their family physician or nurse practitioner for the vaccine and then order and purchase the vaccine from a pharmacy. The St. Clair College Campus Nurse is available to immunize students who have a prescribed vaccine (you must bring the vaccine with you in a cold storage container from the pharmacy) for free.

The St. Clair College Campus Nurse at (519) 972-2380 is available to answer any questions you may have in regard to the prophylactic rabies vaccine.

The pre-exposure rabies vaccine regime must be completed prior to the start of the fall semester.

In the event that the rabies vaccine is on backorder, students will be required to sign a waiver at the start of the program until such time that the vaccine becomes available. As soon as the vaccine becomes available, students should begin the vaccine regime and provide proof of inoculation as soon as possible.

1st semester students who have been previously vaccinated must submit a vaccine certificate or if the vaccine was completed prior to September 1, 2020, the proof of an antibody titre is required.

The St. Clair College Health Centre Nurse is available by appointment for blood collection and an antibody titre. The cost of blood collection at the college is \$10.00. The titre results will be available approximately 2 weeks after blood collection.

More information on prophylactic rabies vaccines can be found at:

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-gci/p04-rabi-rage-eng.php#approve>

Also, it is highly recommended that you maintain current immunization against tetanus.

P O'Hara
Co-ordinator