



## **GUIDANCE NOTE 4: HEALTH SURVEILLANCE AND IMMUNISATION**

### **University Policy requires that:**

*Where appropriate, health surveillance is provided in agreement with the Health and Safety Unit;*

The need for people who may be at risk from microbiological hazards to receive health monitoring and immunisation must be considered, by Colleges, the Advisory Group for the Control of Biological Hazards and the University's Occupational Health Unit when new work is proposed. The assessment of the work will identify when this is necessary and the Health and Safety Unit and Occupational Health Unit should be approached for advice. The names of individuals working with Hazard Group 3, and some Hazard Group 2, organisms will be kept centrally.

### **Pregnant Workers and Breast Feeding Mothers**

There is a particular duty to assess additional risks to workers and the foetus and child. In the case of biological agents there are certain organisms that may present an additional hazard. The risk assessment for the work should highlight this hazard.

Women of child-bearing age working with agents that could cause infection with deleterious effects on foetal development (particularly rubella virus and human cytomegalovirus) should inform the University Occupational Health Physician (preferably through the Schools) as soon as possible if they think that they are pregnant.

### **Immunisation**

Immunisation must never be regarded as the primary defence against laboratory infection but it may give valuable additional protection. Where work is undertaken with specific pathogens (or materials suspected of containing them), and immunisation could be important for the welfare of the worker and the community, the Health and Safety Unit should be consulted. Tetanus immunisation is recommended for people performing manual tasks where there is a significant risk of cuts or whose work involves animals or animal houses. Hepatitis B vaccination would be recommended for persons working with human blood or tissue. If a new worker is being engaged or an existing employee being asked to undertake work that would require immunisation, then this immunisation must be made a condition of acceptance for such work. The University Occupational Health Unit will carry out any immunisations that are required but individuals may make other arrangements if they so wish, provided that the Occupational Health Unit is notified so that a complete record is available centrally in the University. The College must notify the Occupational Health Unit of people requiring immunisation.