



Title/Subject: Effects of Infectious & Environmental Disease or Disability on Medical Student Learning Activities

Applies to: faculty students staff Other

Policy System Process/Procedure Guideline/Standard Position Description

- **Introduction**

Reason for the Policy:

This policy sets forth the steps to be taken when a student is identified with one of the specifying conditions under which there should be limited or no patient contact until the student is well. Or if in the case of a chronic blood-borne illness, the process that should be followed for the protection of the patient and student. It requires reporting of certain conditions to the Office of Student Affairs to allow for proper steps to be taken. It attempts to balance protection of the patient and rights of the student to continue their education when possible. The confidentiality of the student's information is critical.

LCME Standard 12.8: A medical school has policies in place that effectively address medical student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards, including the effects of infectious and environmental disease or disability on medical students learning activities

Scope: This policy is to be followed by students, faculty, residents, administrators and any others involved the education of College of Medicine students.

- **Policy/Statement:**

If a medical student contracts an infectious and/or environmental disease or disability after matriculation, whether or not it is a direct result of their training, the medical school will assist the student in completing their MD requirements, as long as the student is able to still meet the technical standards as outlined in the admissions policy. The College of Medicine will work with the infected student to provide reasonable accommodations where needed. An accommodation is not considered reasonable if it alters the fundamental nature or requirements of the educational program, imposes an undue hardship, or fails to eliminate or substantially reduce a direct threat to the health or safety of others. Students will be excused from all learning activities to address the potential risks or effects of such infections, environmental disease, or disability.

In certain situations, students with communicable diseases or conditions may not be allowed to have patient contact. This restriction may be necessary to protect the health and safety of both patients and coworkers. Individuals with the following medical conditions will not be allowed to have patient contact without a medical clearance:

1. Active chickenpox, measles, rubella, herpes zoster (shingles), hepatitis A, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis

Authority: Office of Medical Education

Policy/Process POC: Office of Student Affairs

Effective Date: 9-13-19

Review/Revision Schedule: annually

Indexed as: needle stick, exposure, infectious



2. Oral herpes with draining lesions
3. Group A streptococcal disease (i.e., strep throat) until 24 hours of treatment received
4. Diarrhea lasting over three days or accompanied by fever or bloody stools
5. Draining or infected skin lesions
6. Conjunctivitis
7. Viral influenza

Medical students infected with HCV, HBV, or HIV have a professional responsibility to report their serostatus. Consistent with the self-reporting requirements imposed on physicians and other regulated healthcare workers, this reporting obligation shall be mandatory for students infected with HIV or HBV.

Confidentiality will be maintained pursuant to state and federal laws. The Individuals who will be informed of the student's serostatus are members of the adhoc committee (see below), designated representative(s) of the clinical site to the extent required by the site's policies, and the TAMU Office of Disability Services if the student requests accommodations. Faculty who are providing modifications in the student's educational program will be informed that the individual has a blood-borne infectious disease, but will not be notified of the particular disease.

- **Procedure**

Students who believe or have reason to believe that they are infected with HIV, HCV or HBV must report that fact to a student affairs dean prior to performing an invasive procedure where there is a risk of contact between the blood or body fluids of the student and the blood or body fluids of the patient. The student affairs dean will require confirmation from a qualified physician as to the student's diagnosis, state of health, and symptoms.

Having identified a student with HBV, HCV and/or HIV, the student affairs dean will coordinate an ad hoc committee including, if possible, the student's physician, an infectious disease specialist or credentialed HIV specialist, and the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs or appointee who is familiar with the clinical curriculum. The ad hoc committee will evaluate the student's course work and patient contact to determine appropriate clinical curricular changes based on guidelines from appropriate entities such as the Texas Department of Health (TDH), Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

The committee shall report any recommendations to the Student Affairs Dean who in turn will notify the student and clerkship directors, as needed, of any requirements and/or limitations placed on the student's clinical activity.

- **Compliance:** Consistent with the self-reporting requirements imposed on physicians and other regulated healthcare workers, this reporting obligation shall be mandatory for students infected with HIV or HBV. Students who fail to comply with the requirements and/or limitations will be subject to discipline up to or including a recommendation for dismissal.
- **Related Policies, Processes, and Guidelines:**
Needle Stick and Exposure Guidelines – COM Student Handbook



Needle stick Policy – COM Student Handbook
Universal Precautions Guidelines

• **Revision History:**

Date of Change	Authority	Summary of Changes	Document Location
<i>August 13, 2019</i>	<i>OEQI Policy team</i>	<i>Updated and converted to new format.</i>	<i>Google Drive: Policies and Procedures</i>

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