

CAROLINAS COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

ADMINISTRATIVE

SUBJECT: COMMUNICABLE AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

REVIEWERS: Safety Committee Chair*
Dean of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management
Provost

POLICY

Communicable and infectious diseases may be transmitted and spread through various human contact including blood borne transmission (Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV), airborne transmission (tuberculosis, measles), contact/droplet transmission (Ebola, influenza, mumps, COVID-19), and contact transmission (MRSA).

Students and faculty may be exposed to communicable and infectious diseases during the normal performance of clinical activities and interaction with patients. Such exposure, and the habituation of standard protective measures, is an important part of healthcare education. In all cases the College will observe standard precautions at least as stringent as those identified by Atrium Health infection prevention policies and protocols, regardless of the students' specific clinical placement.

In the case of highly communicable disease, however, additional measures are needed to protect the student and limit the opportunity for spread. Because learners are more prone to accidents, and because the College has a duty to reasonably protect its students, students are prohibited from engaging in the care of patients with highly communicable diseases. Students or anyone currently in training will not be allowed to participate in the care or management of patients suspected or confirmed to have biosafety level 3 pathogens (including but not limited to *Y. pestis*) or have biosafety level 4 pathogens (including but not limited to Ebola, Marburg, Lassa, Crimean Congo hemorrhagic fever, Bolivian and Argentinian hemorrhagic fevers, or other hemorrhagic diseases and smallpox). For other highly transmissible infectious diseases, student involvement will be at the discretion of the hospital epidemiologist or the program chair.

PROCEDURE

- A. Students and teammates must comply with all standard protocols and infection prevention policies of the facility where assigned for clinical activities. Students and faculty participating in the care of patients with a communicable and infectious disease must wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including surgical masks, gloves, gowns, shoe covers and goggles or face shield prior to entering the patient's room.
- B. Exposed students or teammates must immediately notify Atrium Health Teammate Health and complete a Report of Occupational Illness and Injury form (ROII). Exposure may constitute contact with blood or body fluids or exposure to objects (such as needles) that have been contaminated. Exposed students and teammates will receive medical evaluation as needed.
- C. The Communicable and Infectious Diseases Policy will be reviewed bi-annually.

REFERENCES

Related Policies to Consult

Carolinas College:

STUDENT AFFAIRS - Health Assessment and Immunizations for Students
ADMINISTRATIVE - Incident Reporting

Atrium Health:

HR 4.05 Infectious Disease Prevention
AH 7.01 Bloodborne Pathogens

Related 2018 SACSCOC Standard(s):

13.8 Institutional environment