

# CAROLINAS COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Section V - Safety

**SUBJECT:** COMMUNICABLE AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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

### **Related Policies to Consider:**

CCHS Policies: [Health Assessment and Immunizations for Students \(Sec. II\)](#)  
[Incident Reporting \(Sec. V\)](#)

CHS Policy: [HR 4.05 Infectious Disease Prevention](#)

### **I. 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), 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, regardless of the students' specific clinical placement, the College will observe standard precautions at least as stringent as those identified by Carolinas HealthCare System 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 accident, 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 disease. 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 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 college administration.

### **II. PROCEDURE**

- A. Students and faculty 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. Students are excluded from caring for a patient with a biosafety level 3 pathogen (including but not limited to *Y. pestis*) or a biosafety level 4 pathogen (including but not limited to Bolivian and Argentine hemorrhagic fevers, Marburg virus, Ebola virus, and other hemorrhagic diseases). In clinical locations where this exclusion is more stringent than the facility's policies regarding highly communicable disease, the college policy will take precedence.
- C. Exposed teammates must immediately notify CHS 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 teammates will receive medical evaluation and follow-up care as needed.
- D. The Communicable and Infectious Diseases Policy will be reviewed bi-annually.

**III. APPROVAL**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: President Date: \_\_\_\_\_