

F.3.1.1 (Procedure) Communicable Diseases

Responsible Departments: Vice Chancellor for Student Success

Based on Board Policy: [F.3.1](#) - Student Health

Approved: 5-19-09

Last Amended: 11-16-16

Communicable diseases include, but are not limited to, measles, influenza, viral hepatitis-A (infectious hepatitis), viral hepatitis-B (serum hepatitis), Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV infection), Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), leprosy, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), and tuberculosis.

Students with communicable diseases, whether acute or chronic, shall be subject to the following provisions.

The information that a student has a communicable disease shall be confirmed by one of the following methods:

1. The student brings the information to the College District's attention.
2. The student confirms the information when asked.
3. If the college President or designee has reasonable cause to believe that a student has a communicable disease, the student may be asked to submit to a college-funded medical examination
 - a. To determine whether the student's physical condition interferes with participation in an educational program or activity or poses a threat to self or others, or
 - b. A test or medical examination is necessary to manage accidental exposure to blood or other bodily fluids or airborne pathogens (but only when the test or examination is conducted in accordance with Article 4419(b)-1, Section 902(d) of Vernon's Annotated Civil Statutes of the State of Texas.

The results of such examination shall be kept confidential, in accordance with the Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Act, Article 4419(b)-1, Vernon's Annotated Civil Statutes of the State of Texas, except that the college President or designee shall be informed of restrictions and necessary accommodations. Health care and safety personnel may also be informed to the extent appropriate if the condition is one that might require emergency treatment.

When it has been determined that a student has a communicable disease, the college President or designee shall follow standards of the state and local health departments to determine:

1. The nature, duration, and severity of the risk, i.e., how the disease is transmitted, how long the student will be infectious, and the potential harm to self and others.
2. The probabilities that the disease will be transmitted and will cause varying degrees of harm.
3. Whether the student's condition interferes with the student's academic program or activities. This determination shall include a report by a physician who has performed a medical examination of the student.

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Confidentiality

Knowledge that a student has a communicable disease (other than AIDS/HIV) shall be confined to those persons with a direct need to know, e.g., Chancellor, person responsible for the College District health program, and the like.

Information that a student has or has not been tested, or has or does not have AIDS or HIV infection, may be released only to physicians, nurses, or other health care personnel who have a legitimate need to know in order to provide for their protection and to provide for the student's health and welfare, and to the college President or designee, or upon written authorization by the student (if the student is over 18 years of age) or by the student's parents (if the student is a minor), specifying the persons or positions to whom the information may be released. The persons specified shall be provided with appropriate information concerning any precautions that may be necessary and shall be made aware of confidentiality requirements.

Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

A student diagnosed with methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) shall inform the college President or designee before he/she returns to the campus after receiving the diagnosis.

The college President, through the College District safety coordinator, shall take all measures to reduce or eliminate the spread of MRSA. These measures include, but are not limited to:

1. posting signs in common areas, including restrooms, communicating means to prevent contamination;
2. providing germicidal hand-washing soaps in common areas; and
3. ensuring that custodial employees receive education and personal protective equipment.

Any faculty member, administrator, or student who becomes aware of a student's actual or suspected MRSA infection shall notify the College District safety coordinator immediately.

Legal Reference - TACC Policy Reference Manual

FFAA(LEGAL) – Wellness and Health Services: Immunization

FFAC(LEGAL) – Wellness and Health Services: Communicable Diseases