

Texas A&M University
Master of Science in Athletic Training Program

Communicable/Infectious Disease Policy

An infectious disease is any medical illness that is caused by microscopic organisms or their toxins. Invading microorganisms include viruses, fungi, bacteria, and parasites. Sources for these organisms include the environment, animals, insects, and other mammals, including humans. Transmission usually occurs by:

- Inhalation
- Ingestion
- Direct contact, or by bites by a contaminated vector.

Many infectious diseases can cause outbreaks and epidemics. For this reason, identification, evaluation, and mitigation of infectious diseases are essential to protect public health. Infectious diseases can occur naturally, through human error (e.g. airborne or foodborne illness), or through deliberate acts of bioterrorism.

(Annex H Health and Medical Services;
<http://www.tamu.edu/emergency/documents/AnnexH.pdf>)

Policy:

Students are expected to abide by all policies and procedures of Texas A&M University's infectious disease plan as well as following recommended infection control practices in the clinical setting to prevent infectious disease by the CDC, OSHA and the NCAA (refer to Appendix V).

References:

Texas A&M University's infectious disease plan can be found in the following document:
Annex H; Health and Medical Services
<http://www.tamu.edu/emergency/documents/AnnexH.pdf>

Center for Disease Control (CDC) Guidelines may be found at
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/index.htm>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration
https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_id=10051&p_table=STANDARDS

Other Medical Conditions Effecting Class or Clinical Responsibilities:

Policy/Procedure:

Students who have any other medical condition should go to the [Texas A&M Student Health Services](#) or other health care provider immediately for evaluation and treatment. Students that are determined by a physician as having an active communicable disease will be required to take a medical leave of absence from clinical experience until cleared by the same

physician. At that time, the student will determine, with the PD and CEC, a plan to make up the missed competencies and experiences. Examples of communicable diseases are:

- Rubella (3-day measles)
- Rubeola (9-day measles)
- Meningitis - viral and bacterial
- Hepatitis A
- Varicella (Chicken Pox)
- Tuberculosis (TB)
- Influenza
- Mononucleosis

If you have any of the following signs and/or symptoms, you may have contracted a communicable disease. Athletic training students who experience any or all of the following signs or symptoms need to be examined by a physician prior to attending clinical rotations.

- Fever
- Skin rash
- Nasal discharge
- Coughing
- Open and/or oozing skin lesions
- Yellowing of the skin, eyes, or mouth
- Unexplained fatigue
- Chest pain
- Dizziness

Any Athletic Training Student who comes in contact with a communicable disease or experiences any or all of the above signs and/or symptoms will be referred to the Student Health Center (<http://shs.tamu.edu/>; (979) 458-8250). The costs associated with the referral to the Student Health Center and any additional care will be the responsibility of the student's primary insurance and the student.