

James Madison University Athletic Training Program Communicable Disease Policy

Communicable diseases are illnesses that spread from one person to another or from an animal to a person. (www.cdc.gov) Exposure to pathogens causing disease and illness occurs in daily life but may increase as a health care provider. Common transmission methods include direct contact with a sick person, breathing airborne viruses and bacteria, contact with blood or other body fluids, or contact with contaminated surfaces or objects.

Examples of Common Communicable Diseases:

- *Conjunctivitis (pink eye)*
- *Diphtheria (upper respiratory infection)*
- *Herpes Simplex*
- *Hepatitis*
- *HIV*
- *Fungal Infections*
- *Meningococcal Infections*
- *Mononucleosis*
- *Pertussis (whooping cough)*
- *Streptococcal Infection*
- *Herpes Zoster (shingles)*
- *Mumps*
- *Rubella*
- *Tuberculosis*
- *Varicella (chicken pox)*
- *Viral Infections (Influenza, colds, etc.)*

Athletic training students (ATS) have the potential to be exposed to such diseases during their clinical rotations or throughout their normal daily routines which may cause them to become ill throughout the semester. The following policy has been developed to delineate the appropriate action, should an ATS be ill.

Prevention of Communicable Diseases:

To prevent the transmission of such diseases, each athletic training student will complete the following on an annual basis:

- Bloodborne Pathogen Training
- Review of Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Policy
- TB Screening/Testing

Students are also required by the university to have the following immunizations or denial waiver on file:

- Tetanus
- Hepatitis B
- Meningococcal
- MMR
- Poliomyelitis
- TB Screening/Test

Recommended, but not required immunizations include:

- HPV
- Hepatitis A
- Varicella
- Influenza

Each clinical site is equipped with a universal precautions kit that includes protective eyewear, gloves, and gowns. Clinical sites also have posted signs that

indicate proper care of biohazard material and proper hand-washing steps. All sites have appropriate facilities for handwashing or hand sanitizer available if on-field.

If an ATS believes they have a communicable disease, the following actions should occur:

1. The ATS should communicate to their clinical preceptor(s) and academic professors of their illness and need to absence.
2. The ATS should determine if medical attention is necessary and make an appointment with the University Health Center, the team physician, or at another health care facility (i.e. Med Express Urgent Care). Students will bear the responsibilities for costs associated with medical care required.
3. The ATS should not return to clinic or class until they are no longer contagious or symptomatic.
4. Making up missed work is the responsibility of the ATS. Common methods to do this are to discuss missed classes with classmates, obtain notes, and/or to see the instructor to discuss what was missed and anything they do not understand. Students should additionally seek to get caught up on what they missed in clinic during their absence.

By signing this form, you confirm that you have been made aware of this policy.

Name (Print): _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____