

MANUAL OF POLICY

Title	Students With or Who Have Been Exposed to Communicable Diseases	3680
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Date Approved by Board	As Amended by Board Minute Order Dated June 23, 2020	

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to allow the College to establish guidelines and confidentiality procedures relating to students with communicable diseases, including students who have been exposed to communicable diseases. Strict confidentiality procedures will be followed at all times. The medical history or records of any student are considered confidential information and may, therefore, not be released without the individual's written consent except as otherwise provided by law.

II. Policy

Communicable disease means an illness due to an infectious agent or its toxic products that arises through transmission of that agent or its products from a reservoir to a susceptible host and as further defined in the Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Act, Article 4419b-1, V.A.T.S. Communicable diseases include, but are not limited to, rubella (measles), mumps, rubella (German measles), influenza, infectious mononucleosis, chicken pox, viral hepatitis-A, viral hepatitis-B, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV infection), AIDS, AIDS-Related Complex, sexually transmitted diseases, coronaviruses, and infectious meningitis. In this policy, HIV infection includes AIDS, AIDS-Related Complex, and a positive test for the antibody to human immunodeficiency virus. In this policy, coronaviruses include SARS, COVID-19, and other related viruses as determined by Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Non Discrimination

The College shall not discriminate against any student solely on the ground that the student has, or suspected to have been exposed to, a communicable disease. In the case of a confirmed or suspected exposure, reasonable accommodations in accordance with applicable law and local health department recommendations will be made to allow enrollment to continue, while restrictions as described below might be imposed.

Restricted Access

If the College makes a determination, based on established procedure, that any restriction is necessary, the College reserves the right to prohibit any student or other person with a communicable disease from College facilities, programs, functions and/or campus activities. Such restrictions would be considered only for the welfare of the person who has the communicable disease and/or the welfare of the other members of the College community. Restrictions would be implemented on a case-by-case basis, and implemented for a time and manner in accordance with recommendations from the local health department.

Students who have been prohibited under the provisions of this policy and who continue to access restricted College facilities, programs, functions and/or campus activities will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Student Code of Conduct as published in the Student Handbook.

Students who are experiencing coronavirus symptoms, or who have been exposed to someone with coronavirus must notify the Office of Counseling and Student Disability Services and follow CDC

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guidelines to self-isolate or stay home. Students are also strongly encouraged to seek appropriate medical advice from a medical professional or the local County health department to determine if they should be tested, and the next steps if confirmed positive for coronavirus. Students who fail to report symptoms or exposure will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Student Code of Conduct as published in the Student Handbook.

The Director of Counseling or designee shall report to the local health department a student who has or is suspected of having a communicable disease as mandated by the Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 81, Communicable Diseases.

Faculty members or staff members who have been informed by students of exposure to coronavirus or who present symptoms of will notify the Office of Human Resources immediately. The Office of Human Resources will then notify the appropriate departments as deemed necessary.

III. History

Origination Date Approved by Board:
November 9, 1995

Date Amended and Approved by Board:
May 26, 2020
June 23, 2020