

Communicable Disease Policy

The [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) outlines specific policies that protect and minimize exposure to communicable diseases within healthcare facilities and between health care providers and patients. The Program is in charge of educating students to use the following guidelines and provisions to manage communicable disease that they may come into contact with in the athletic training room or at an off-campus clinical education site.

[CDC Guidelines: Personal Health Guidelines 1998](#): Well-defined policies should be in place concerning personal contact with patients when patients have the potential for transmittable disease conditions.

This policy includes the following:

1. Personnel responsibility in using the health service on campus and reporting an illness.
2. Work Restrictions: if it is deemed necessary to miss an assignment due to the fact that the ATS has a communicable illness, it is the student's responsibility to notify his/her preceptor.
3. Non-work exclusion policies that encourage personnel to report illnesses or exposures and that the ATS will not be penalized for missing assignments.
4. Communicate and encourage personnel who have signs and symptoms of a possible infectious disease to report their condition promptly to a supervisor and their local health care provider.
5. Include appropriate education for personnel on the importance of good hygienic practices, especially hand washing and covering the nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing.

Program-specific Policy

1. Should an athletic training student become ill, he/she must report to the Student Health Center located in Sampson Hall (Craton E. and Ellen Mann Health Center) or to another medical health care practitioner. Upon evaluation, the medical practitioner will determine the appropriate intervention and treatment for said illness and the amount of time and treatment the ATS will need to overcome this illness. It will also be noted the length of time needed to remain out of contact with others to prevent transmission.
2. If an ATS acquires a communicable disease, the ATS must notify their preceptor as soon as possible. The preceptor will notify the Program Director and Clinical Education Coordinator. The Program Director will record any and all absences.

3. The ATS will not be allowed to return to their clinical experience until they have been cleared by a medical practitioner. A signed release from the medical practitioner must be filled out and given to the preceptor and Program Director prior to returning.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) provides these preventative guidelines for the prevention of spreading of the communicable disease within health care facilities. These regulations are designed to provide for the uniform awareness, prevention, and reporting of diseases in order that appropriate control may be instituted to interrupt the transmission of disease. *ATSs are providing direct health care to patients under the supervision of a preceptor; appropriate precautions must be utilized.* The Program will also utilize the CDC's Personnel Health Guidelines for work restrictions and duration of time away from patients. This document is housed in the Program Director's office.

The partial list of contagious diseases from the CDC include:

- Diarrhea
- Conjunctivitis
- Diphtheria
- Enteroviral Infections
- Hepatitis A, B, C
- Herpes Simplex
- HIV
- Measles
- Mumps
- Pediculosis
- Pertussis
- Rubella
- Scabies
- Streptococcal infection
- TB
- Varicella
- Zoster
- Viral Respiratory Infections