

Infectious Diseases Policies

Infection Control Policy

Immunization Policy

All students admitted to Health Occupations programs must complete the following vaccinations/screening tests and provide required documentation (immunization records, physician validated history, or serologic confirmation):

Tuberculosis Screening: Intradermal PPD (Mantoux) completed within six months of program admission, unless previously positive. Chest x-ray required for a positive PPD, with a follow-up chest x-ray every two years. Once enrolled in a health program, tuberculosis screening is **required annually** and must be documented by a physician's signature or verification from the College Health Center.

All students who were born on or after January 1, 1957, must show proof of:

1. **Measles:** Two doses of measles vaccine administered on or after their first birthday and at least 30 days apart; or immunity to measles (physician-validated history or serologic confirmation).
2. **Mumps:** One dose of mumps vaccine administered on or after their first birthday; or immunity to mumps (physician-validated history or serologic confirmation).

All students regardless of date of birth must show proof of:

1. **Rubella:** One dose of rubella vaccine administered on or after their first birthday; or immunity to rubella (physician-validated history or serologic confirmation).
2. **Tetanus/Diphtheria:** One dose of tetanus/diphtheria (Td) toxoid within the past ten years.
3. **Hepatitis B Vaccine Series:** Three doses of hepatitis B vaccine administered with an initial dose before the student begins nursing or allied health classes; a second dose administered one (1) month later; and a third dose administered six (6) months later.

Infectious Disease Policy

El Centro College Health Occupations programs involve clinical experiences in which students may administer care to individuals who are infected with blood-borne pathogens such as hepatitis B virus, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis C, hepatitis D, and syphilis. Blood-borne pathogens are disease-causing microorganisms that may be present in human blood. These pathogens may be transmitted by exposure to an infected individual's blood or other body fluids. Students will be expected to follow all recommended guidelines for prevention of blood-borne pathogen transmission. At the same time, students will be expected to treat all patients with the concern and the dignity that is inherent in professional standards of care.

El Centro College Health Occupations programs involve clinical and laboratory experiences which could be a potential health hazard for students who have compromised immune systems. Students who have acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), AIDS related complex (ARC), or who are positive for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), or who are infected with hepatitis B virus and HbeAg positive, will not be restricted from patient care activities except that they may not perform "exposure-prone" procedures as defined by the Texas Health and Safety Code § 85.202 and 85.204 but should be aware of the potential health hazards to which they are exposed.

El Centro College Health Occupations students and faculty will follow the recommended guidelines for "Prevention of Blood-Borne Pathogens in Health Care Settings," published by the Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia. Policies will be updated as new information related to prevention and treatment of blood-borne pathogens becomes available.

To minimize the risk of transmission of bloodborne pathogens, Health Occupations students will:

1. Be provided classroom instruction related to blood-borne pathogen cause, treatment, modes of transmission, and prevention.
2. Be taught basic skills in isolation techniques, injections, venipuncture, arterial puncture, and handling of body fluids in the skills laboratory before actual clinical practice of these skills on a patient.

3. Receive hospital orientation on specific policies for blood and body fluid precautions.
4. Refrain from all direct patient care and handling of patient care equipment while the caregiver has exudative lesions or weeping dermatitis.
5. Utilize the following Universal Precautions consistently on all patients:
 - a. Gloves should be worn when touching blood and body fluids, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin, or when touching items or surfaces soiled with a patient's blood or body fluids (including performing venipuncture and other vascular access procedures).
 - b. Hands should be washed immediately before gloving and again after removing gloves. Hands should also be washed immediately and thoroughly when contaminated with blood or other body fluids.
 - c. Gloves should be changed between each patient.
 - d. Masks and protective eyewear should be worn for invasive procedures and for any procedures which are likely to generate droplets of blood or body fluids.
 - e. Gowns or plastic aprons should be worn for procedures prone to cause splashes of blood or body fluids.
 - f. Used needles should not be recapped, purposely bent or broken by hand, removed from disposable syringes, or manipulated by hand. Disposable needles, syringes, scalpel blades, and other sharp items should be placed in puncture resistant containers for disposal.
 - g. Soiled linen should be handled as little as possible with minimum agitation. All soiled linen should be bagged and tied closed at the location where it was used.
 - h. Gloves are to be worn for post-delivery care of the umbilical cord and until all blood and amniotic fluid have been cleaned from the infant's skin.
 - i. When Universal Precautions are implemented on all patients,
 - isolation/labeling of the patient room, chart, or specimens is not done. Upon death, state law requires that a tag be affixed to the body of any individual who is known to have been infected by a blood borne pathogen.
 - j. Specimens of blood and body fluids should be placed in a leak-proof container. When collecting the specimen, care should be taken to prevent contamination of the outside of the container. All containers (except blood tubes) should be placed in a zip-lock bag.
 - k. Mouthpieces and resuscitation bags should be used in place of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
6. Hospital policy may require special precautions and equipment for patients in respiratory isolation. Students will be assigned to care for these patients at the discretion of the clinical instructor.
7. A hospital and College Health Center incident report is to be completed if a student is exposed to blood or body fluids through parenteral (needle stick or cut), mucous membrane (splash to the eyes or mouth), or cutaneous (through skin which is chapped, abraded, or has dermatitis) means. Follow-up screening will be recommended according to hospital/school guide lines. The student will be referred to his/her personal physician for follow-up care. If the student does not have a physician or health insurance, he/she will be referred to Parkland Memorial Hospital or another facility. The cost of follow-up care will be paid by the student. While follow-up screening and care cannot be required, it is strongly recommended.
8. In the event that a student exposes another to blood or bodily fluids by any of the means described in Paragraph 7 above, the student may be required to submit to mandatory testing to determine his/her communicable disease status; any such testing will protect the student's confidentiality to the extent possible; the test results and identifying information will be destroyed after the person exposed has been notified of the test results.