**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE POLICY**

The purpose of the University of West Alabama Athletic Training Education Program Communicable Disease Policy is to protect the health and safety of all parties. The purpose of this policy is to ensure the welfare of the students enrolled within this program as well as those patients you may come in contact with during your clinical experiences. It is designed to provide Athletic Training Students, Clinical Instructors (CI), Approved Clinical Instructors (ACI), and athletic training faculty with a plan to assist in the management of students with infectious diseases as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This policy was developed using the recommendations established by the CDC for health care workers ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)).

**What are Communicable Diseases?**

A communicable disease is a disease that can be transmitted from one person to another. There are four main types of transmission including direct physical contact, air (through a cough, sneeze, or other particle inhaled), a vehicle (ingested or injected), and a vector (via animals or insects).

**Communicable Diseases Cited by the CDC**:

* Bloodborne Pathogens
* Conjunctivitis
* Cytomegalovirus infections
* Diarrheal diseases
* Diphtheria
* Enteroviral infections
* Hepatitis viruses
* Herpes simplex
* Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)
* Measles
* Meningococcal infections
* Mumps
* Pediculosis
* Pertussis
* Rubella
* Scabies
* Streptococcal infection
* Tuberculosis
* Varicella
* Zoster
* Viral respiratory infections

**Guidelines for Prevention of Exposure and Infection**

1. Students must successfully complete annual Bloodborne pathogens training prior to initiating formal clinical experiences.
2. Students are required to use proper hand washing techniques and practice good hygiene at all times.
3. Students are required to use Universal Precautions at all times. This applies to all clinical sites.
4. Patient care should not be performed when the athletic training student has active signs or symptoms of a communicable disease.

**Guidelines for Managing Potential Infection**

1. Any student who has been exposed to a potential infection before, during, or after a clinical experience should report that exposure to his/her supervising clinical instructor immediately and to Mr. Andy Grubbs ATC, Clinical Coordinator.
2. Any student, who demonstrates signs or symptoms of infection or disease that may place him/her and/or his/her patients at risk, should report that potential infection or disease **immediately** to his/her supervising clinical instructor.
3. The student is responsible for keeping the Clinical Coordinator informed of his/her conditions that require extended care and/or missed class/clinical time. The student may be required to provide written documentation from a physician to return to class and/or clinical site.
4. If a student feels ill enough to miss ANY class or clinical experience that student should notify the appropriate instructor or supervising CI **immediately**. Any absence must be supported with written documentation from a physician.

**By signing below, you indicate you understand and will abide by the** University of West Alabama Athletic Training Education Program Communicable Disease Policy**. Any breach of the Communicable Disease Policy will result in disciplinary action outlined in the UWA Policy and Procedure Manual for Athletic Trainers and as determined by the Athletic Training Curriculum Selection Committee.**

Athletic Training Student Name (Print) Athletic Training Student Signature Date