

**College of Nursing and Health Professions
Policy/Procedure Guidelines for Infection Control**

INTRODUCTION

The policy guidelines herein are of a general nature and deal with HIV-related infections as well as other blood borne pathogens. They apply to all students/faculty in the College of Nursing and Health Professions (CNHP). Due to differences in the various programs, individual CNHP programs may have specific rules and/or guidelines that are modifications of those in the general policy; however, the specific policies of the various programs will be consistent in their intent with the guidelines noted herein. This policy shall be reviewed annually and modified as necessary based on the current information from the CDC and other resources.

ADMISSIONS

The HIV/HBV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Hepatitis B Virus) or any significant blood borne pathogen status of an applicant should not enter into the application process. Applicants applying for healthcare programs should, however, be informed that certain diseases may necessitate either a modification of their program, or in the extreme may necessitate their dismissal from a program if they cannot perform procedures and/or tasks that are considered essential to their educational experience.

RETENTION

If it is determined that a student is sero-positive for HIV/HBV, or any other significant blood borne pathogen, or is clinically manifesting symptoms of a related disease process, that student should receive counseling about personal health care concerns and about interaction with others, especially clients. The student should be counseled by a designated faculty member in his/her respective program. The function of the designated faculty member is to counsel the student as to whether the program of education should be modified, another educational program considered, or in the extreme, whether the student should be dismissed from a program because of the inability to perform procedures and/or tasks crucial to the educational program. When considering the possibility of modifying clinical experiences or whether to dismiss, the designated faculty member will request that the Infection Control Committee convene to consider the specific student situation.

INFECTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

The Infection Control Committee will be comprised of at least one representative from each of the programs in the College of Nursing and Health Professions. The dean will be charged with appointing faculty to serve on this committee after consultation with chairs or directors of the various programs. Once the committee is established, a chair shall be elected by the members. In addition, a community member who is an expert in infectious disease will be designated as a consultant to the committee.

The committee shall function to consider the specific student/faculty situations outlined in the HIV/HBV Guidelines. In addition, this committee will function to review the HIV/HBV Guidelines on an annual basis. The committee will coordinate annual instruction on Infection Control Updates for the faculty. This committee will also serve the programs by making recommendations for infection control policy that may impact both the student and faculty populations. Information regarding such policy will be included in the various programs' Student Handbook and the CNHP Faculty/Staff Handbook.

When the Infection Control Committee convenes to consider specific student/faculty situations, a timely response is in order. Individuals will be provided a letter outlining the committee recommendations within a one-week period after convening. During this time period the student/faculty person shall not engage in direct client contact. Should an individual wish to appeal the decision of the committee, the established University Grievance process should be followed (See ASU Student/Faculty Handbooks).

COUNSELING

It is the responsibility of the programs to provide counseling to a student/faculty member who is determined to be sero-positive for HIV/HBV, or any significant blood born pathogen, or who manifests symptoms of a related disease process. The counselor interaction with the student/faculty member should be reported to the Infection Control Committee only when the person's health status necessitates a modification in the clinical program or dismissal. It will be the responsibility of the counselor to verify that the student is aware of options for testing, counseling and health care. In addition, the counselor will verify that the student has been provided with specific information that relates to client contact.

The following information is provided in order to refer students when necessary to outside agencies for assistance and follow-up. This information should be reviewed and updated annually.

HIV Infection Services provided by ASU Student Health Center:

Students at Arkansas State University who desire HIV testing will be referred to the Craighead County Public Health Department for testing. This insures privacy and integrity of specimen collection.

The Student Health Center has developed a media library (videos, pamphlets) for persons coming in with questions about HIV infection. The Center is located adjacent to the football stadium and can be reached at ext. 2054

Services offered by the Public Health Department

The Craighead County Public Health Department is open from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. for testing. The department offers pre- and post-test counseling as well as HIV testing. The cost of the service is \$5.00 which pays the record maintenance fee. The Public Health Department can be contacted by calling 933-4585. Offices are located in the Arkansas Services Center on 611 E Washington Ave, Ste B, Jonesboro, AR 72401.

An individual who desires testing should allow about one hour for the procedure because pre-counseling is extensive.

The Public Health Department will provide the Hepatitis B vaccine for persons up to age 19. They will not provide testing for Hepatitis B.

The Public Health Department will provide follow-up care for any individual with a positive TB skin test or one with a diagnosis of tuberculosis.

Services offered by Northeast Arkansas Regional AIDS Network (NARAN)

This organization offers free confidential testing. Pre- and post-counseling is provided by certified counselors. They also provide direct care services to those persons who need them, including financial counseling. NARAN is also a network agency for persons living with AIDS. A referral can be made by contacting the office at 931-4HIV (4448).

The counselor should not neglect to refer the student/faculty member to his/her private physician for guidance.

Students and faculty outside of Craighead County should seek specific referral information from the Chair of the Infection Control Committee or from a faculty member designated as counselor at the distant site.