

Pittsburg State University

Student Health Center Crisis Response Plan Policy

Part I: Communicable Disease Policy

Objective & Purpose:

To establish a uniform procedure should an outbreak of a communicable disease occur on campus of Pittsburg State University.

Definition:

Communicable disease (*for the purpose of this policy and procedure statement*) is an infectious disease that is spread from person-to-person through casual contact or respiratory droplet, to include, but not exclusively, the following: Tuberculosis (TB), measles (Rubella), German measles (Rubeola), hepatitis, small pox, methicillin-resistant staph aureus, and meningitis. Other potentially less serious infectious diseases, such as chicken pox, influenza, and pneumonia will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Policy:

The University will administer a uniform procedure to ensure that all students, faculty, and staff of PSU will receive appropriate notification regarding diagnostic services and medical care which will be provided at the Student Health Center and/or medical facilities in the community.

Communicable disease which can potentially threaten the health of the campus community as an epidemic include:

- Measles (Rubella)
- German Measles (Rubeola)
- Tuberculosis (TB)
- Hepatitis
- Small pox
- Meningitis
- Methicillin-Resistant Staph aureus

The Director of the Student Health Center shall be notified about all known acute and suspected cases of the above diseases involving any member of the PSU community (students, faculty, or staff).

Procedure:

After receiving this information, the Director of the Student Health Center will convey only the necessary information to appropriate members of the Crisis Response Planning Team.

The Director of Student Health Services will also contact the Crawford County Health Department, and refer to other health agencies or resources for assistance such as Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Center of Disease Control (CDC), and American College Health Association (ACHA). These departments will facilitate in obtaining the latest recommendations about the management and prevention on the spread of the specific strain of communicable microbe, requesting appropriate

vaccines and/or medications, as well as requesting additional professional and clerical assistance, if deemed necessary. The Public Health professionals will be asked to assist the Student Health Center staff with the surveillance and outbreak containment measures, including administration of appropriate vaccines and medications.

All available health professionals will monitor the index cases, look for linked cases, and provide appropriate diagnostic, prophylactic, and therapeutic measures to the affected individual(s). Although the route of transmission and degree of infection varies depending on the specific infectious disease, individuals with the following relationships to the index case will be educated about the disease in question to the extent possible respecting confidentiality:

- Roommates, classmates, and co-workers.

Students, faculty, and staff will be asked to report any signs and symptoms of the illness to their private physician, to receive a confidential medical consultation, appropriate prophylaxis, treatment, and/or referral to community health organizations, as medically indicated.

University Communications

The Director of Student Health Services will work with the designated University Communications member of the Crisis Response Team to provide medical information concerning the communicable disease to the media, students, staff, and family members. When appropriate, such as in cases involving meningococcal meningitis, the Director will prepare a letter to the University community and parents of students to inform them of the following: signs and symptoms, clues to early recognition, who is at risk, prophylactic measures including vaccination when appropriate, treatment procedures, and local sources for referral (Student Health Center, public health clinics, hospital emergency rooms, private offices, etc.).

Human Resources

The assigned member of the Crisis Response Team for the Office of Human Resources will coordinate efforts with the Department supervisors and the Student Health Center staff to identify employees who have reported signs and symptoms of the disease or who may have been exposed to the infectious agent.

University Housing

The Department of University Housing assigned Crisis Response member will immediately notify the Director of Student Health Services if any students living in the university residence halls have signs or symptoms suggestive of a communicable disease. The assigned member of the Crisis Response Team for University Housing will assist the Student Health Center staff to identify and educate all students at risk for contracting the communicable disease. They will also support the staff of the Student Health Center by working with all affected resident students in their compliance with the treatment and prophylactic directives, including isolation housing arrangements, if medically indicated.

Division of Academic Affairs/Campus Life and Auxiliary Services

Academic Affairs and Campus Life and Auxiliary Services assigned member(s) of the Crisis Response team will notify the Director of Student Health Services, or his/her designee of any known cases of faculty member(s), or student (s) who have contracted a communicable disease or have potentially been exposed to the infectious agent(s). They will work with the Student Health Center and the Office of Human Resources to ensure that faculty, or students will receive appropriate treatment and/or prophylaxis, as well as follow up care prior to returning to the workplace.

Health, P.E. and Recreation

The Director of Athletics, or assigned Crisis Response Team member will notify the Director of Student Health Services if any student athlete has, or is suspected of having, any signs or symptoms of communicable diseases. The Department will assist the Student Health Center medical staff by working with the affected student athletes in their compliance with all treatment and prophylaxis directives.

Person with diagnosis of one of the communicable diseases

Before returning to work or school, members of the PSU community who have been diagnosed as having a communicable disease listed within this document MUST receive a letter from his/her physician or primary care provider documenting that he/she is medically cleared (i.e., is no longer infectious to others) and is therefore able to return to school or work as of a specific date. This information should be presented to the Student Health Services (for students) and the Office of Human Resources (for employees) where such records will be filed and kept confidential.

Part II: Biohazardous Waste

Objective & Purpose:

This policy is intended to provide guidance in the proper handling and disposing of biohazard wastes at Pittsburg State Health Services according to applicable federal, state, local and university guidelines.

Policy:

To minimize exposure of employee, students, and faculty to disease causing agents, follow the procedures for proper handling, storage, and disposal of all waste as stated in the Student Health Occupational Health and Safety (OSHA) Policy and Procedure Handbook. The Director of Student Health Services will enlist Mount Carmel Regional Medical Center for assistance in the case of a large biochemical cleanup.

Part III: Bioterrorism Plan

Objective & Purpose:

To establish and provide guidance and insure compliance of university, local, state, and federal guidelines in the occurrence of a bioterrorism act.

Policy:

In the event of a bioterrorism act, Pittsburg State Health Services will work in conjunction with the university Crisis Response Team under the direction of local (City, County agencies), state, and federal guidelines in the implementation of the appropriate disaster plan.

Policy issued dated October 27, 2003

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