

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE POLICY

A Communicable Disease is carried by microorganisms and can be transmitted through people, animals, surfaces, foods, or air. They often rely on fluid exchange, contaminated substances, or close contact to travel from an infected carrier to a healthy individual. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) has identified the following as common communicable diseases:

- Conjunctivitis (Pink eye)
- Diphtheria (upper respiratory infection)
- Herpes simplex
- Meningococcal infections
- Pertussis (Whooping cough)
- Streptococcal infection
- Zoster
- Enteroviral infections
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Cytomegalovirus infections
- Tuberculosis
- Viral infections
- Varicella

Throughout the time here as an athletic training student there will be instances while participating with clinical experiences, that an ATS will be ill or deemed to have a communicable disease. This policy has been developed to identify those instances and to delineate appropriate action when they occur. This policy will assist in ensuring the safety of the patient/clients, ACI/CI, and the student.

If an ATS believes to have a Communicable Disease, the following procedures should occur:

1. The ATS should notify the ACI/CI and Clinical Education Coordinator and/or Program Director before being absent from a clinical experience.
2. The ATS should immediately report to SFA's Student Health Services or local physician for evaluation. ATS may not utilize the team physician during athletic sick call for a suspected illness.
3. If an ATS suspects having a communicable disease, patient care should not be provided until the signs and symptoms resolve, particularly if the ATS is febrile.
4. It is recommended if an ATS is febrile, return to class is not recommended either.
5. If an ATS will miss a clinical experience and/or class due to a communicable disease a written documentation from a physician must be provided upon return. Lack of documentation may result in an unexcused absence. All ATS are responsible for work missed during the illness.
6. It is the ATS' responsibility to communicate with the ACI/CI and instructor of course in regards to course progress. Communication can be via phone or email (Please do not text message.)

How to prevent the spread of Communicable Diseases:

1. Frequent hand washing for the full length of the tune of “A-B-C-D.” Hand wash after: using the bathroom; caring for a patient; preparing or eating food; blowing your nose, sneezing, or coughing; changing a diaper; or after playing with a pet.
2. Sneezing and/or coughing into your shirt or crook of your elbow instead of your hands.
3. Even though using an antiseptic hand-rinse is a first-line defense, it still needs to be followed up with hand washing.
4. Try to avoid touching your mouth, nose, and eyes when they are unwashed.
5. Do not share toiletries.
6. When sick, allow time to fully heal and recover.
7. Proper refrigeration and food preparation is essential. Use hot, soapy water when cleaning cooking surfaces and utensils.

*By signing this document I confirm that I have been made aware of Stephen F. Austin State University's Graduate Athletic Training Education Program's (GATEP)/ Athletic Training Department (ATE) Communicable Disease Policy. This document is available in the GATEP's **Policy and Procedure Manual** which is located on the WebCT / Blackboard GATEP Website. It is also available on the ATE's Website (<http://www2.sfasu.edu/athletictraining/>).*