

**MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING**

POLICY A-33

TITLE: STUDENT EXPOSURE TO, OR DIAGNOSIS OF, A COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

POLICY: This policy refers to any communicable condition which potentially threatens student or patient safety. A student who suspects or has a real contact with an individual or patient which would result in the student's exposure to a communicable disease, or a student who contracts a communicable disease must report such contacts/diagnosis to her/his clinical course coordinator immediately.

RATIONALE: The purpose of this policy is to prevent spread of the disease to other students, clients and the community and to have an approved, uniform, planned approach for dealing with students who have been exposed to or contracted communicable diseases.

PROCEDURE:

1. Students are to report suspected or real contact with a communicable disease or a communicable disease diagnosis to their clinical course coordinator immediately following exposure or diagnosis. This contact may be a result of a clinical learning experience or occur in one's personal life (e.g., child has chicken pox).
2. If the student was exposed or was possibly communicable during clinical laboratory experience in a specific institution/agency, the particular institution/ agency's policies regarding communicable disease should be followed.
 - a. The Clinical Course Coordinator will notify the Campus Director.
 - b. The Campus Director and student will complete the "Report of Exposure to Communicable Disease" form (Attachment #1) as soon as possible.
3. In the absence of institution/agency policy regarding communicable disease exposure, Center for Disease Control (CDC) Guidelines should be consulted regarding management of cases and contacts for the specific disease which the student has contracted or to which the student has been exposed. This will assist in determining if the student needs to be referred to a primary care provider or the contact/diagnosis reported to the local health department. (See <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/epidemiology/commun-disease-epi-reporting.shtml> or the local health department to verify reporting requirements).
4. If it is discovered that a student failed to report a suspected or real contact with a communicable disease or a communicable disease diagnosis to her/his clinical course coordinator immediately, the student will be withdrawn from the clinical setting (see [Policy C-6](#)).

ATTACHMENT #1: Report of Exposure to Communicable Disease

Reviewed/Approved by:

Level I: Executive Council (April, 2007)

Level II: Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs (April, 2007)

POLICY A-33, Attachment #1
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING
Report of Exposure to Communicable Disease

Student: _____
Signature Date

Communicable Disease: _____

a. Date of Exposure: _____ Social _____ Clinical _____

If clinical: (Give area – do not give contact name on this report)

Reported to Clinical Course Coordinator(s): _____
Date

Reported to Campus Director: _____
Signature of Campus Director Date

b. Report of initial visit with provider or health department, treatment and follow-up plans:

Student Signature Date Campus Director Signature Date

c. Report of compliance with policy and procedure:

Student Signature Date Campus Director Signature Date

Original to Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs for permanent file; copy to be retained by the Campus Director separate from student's academic file.