Policy Title: Communicable Disease Exposure

Policy Number: EC.12.07.170815

Applies to: All ESFCOM Medical Students

Date: 8/15/2017

1.0 Policy Statement:
It is the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine (ESFCOM) policy that medical students with communicable diseases are not permitted to engage in patient contact until a physician has documented such conditions and the conditions have resolved or are no longer a threat to the health or safety of the community.

2.0 Definitions:

Communicable disease: An infectious disease transmissible (as from person to person) by direct contact with an affected individual or the individual’s discharges or by indirect means (as by a vector).

Pathogens: Bacteria, viruses, or other microorganisms that can cause disease.

Airborne Pathogens: The relevant pathogens may be viruses, bacteria, or fungi, and they may be spread through coughing, sneezing, raising of dust, spraying of liquids, or similar activities likely to generate aerosol particles or droplets.

Bloodborne Pathogen: Infectious microorganisms in human blood that can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Infectious Disease: Disorders caused by organisms – such as bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites.

CDC Partial List: Diseases that preclude students from being allowed to have patient contact without prior medical clearance include but are not limited to:

- Active chickenpox (varicella), measles (rubeola), German measles (rubella), herpes zoster shingles (herpes zoster), acute viral hepatitis, and tuberculosis (TB)
- Group A streptococcal disease (strept throat) until 24 hours after initiation of treatment
- Draining or infected skin lesions

3.0 Responsibilities:

Associate Dean for Student Affairs
ESFCOM Office of Student Affairs

4.0 Procedures

If a student is unsure whether he or she should participate in patient care, the student should contact the Office of Student Affairs or their preceptor of clinical activities.
Students who know or who have reasonable basis for believing they are infected with airborne or bloodborne pathogens, are expected to seek medical care at the appropriate affiliated medical facilities or from their private physician. Medical students will be excused from classroom or clinical activities in order to seek medical care.

Students who are at high risk of infection from patients or other personnel because of their immune status or any other reason are encouraged to discuss their work responsibilities and educational activities with their personal health care provider. If the health care provider believes that there are certain assignments the individual should not accept due to personal health reasons, it is the student’s responsibility to discuss these concerns with the Associate Dean of Student Affairs.

In some cases, students may be unable to participate fully in medical school life or meet the technical standards of ESFCOM because of his or her illness. In these cases, students may seek assistance from the Office of Student Affairs to discuss the existence of the concern and whether reasonable accommodations are available.

If a student’s exposure results in the contraction of a disease, the student will be allowed to continue in the education program with as little disruption as safely possible depending on the circumstances. The student’s specific medical circumstances will be evaluated confidentially on a case-by-case basis and nondiscriminatory recommendations regarding the student’s progress through medical school will be made.

5.0 Related Policies:
EC.12.04.170815 - Post Exposure Care Policy
EC.12.05.170516 - Immunizations and Tuberculosis Screening Policy
EC.10.01.170912 - Leave, Withdrawal and Readmission Policy

6.0 Key Search Words
Communicable disease, exposure, infectious, patient care

7.0 Revision History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Approval</th>
<th>Policy Number</th>
<th>Revision Date Approval</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/12/2016</td>
<td>SA.12.08.160512</td>
<td>8/15/2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Responsible Office: Office of Student Affairs

Policy Contact: Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Supersedes: SA.12.08.160512 Approved on 5/12/2016