# Infectious/Communicable Disease Policy

The purpose of the Infectious/Communicable Disease Policy is to protect the health and safety of the Athletic Training Students, Preceptors, Athletic Training Program Faculty, and patients. The plan was developed to provide the Athletic Training Student, Preceptor, and Athletic Training faculty with a plan to assist in the management of students with infectious disease as outlined and defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC and UCONN Department of Environmental Health and Safety recommendations were used to develop this policy.

# Defining Infectious/Communicable Disease

Communicable diseases (also known as transmissible OR communicable) are those diseases, which are spread due to the close association with student-­‐athletes and other patient populations. There are 4 main types of transmission including direct physical contact, air (cough, sneeze, or inhaled particles), a vehicle (ingested/injected), and a vector (via animal/insect). Communicable diseases include: Diarrheal Diseases, Measles, Scabies Varicella, Conjunctivitis, Diphtheria, Herpes Simplex, Meningococcal infections, Streptococcal infections, Zoster, Enteroviral infections, Mumps, Rubella, Tuberculosis, Viral Respiratory Infections.

Bloodborne pathogens are capable of causing death or disease to an immune competent adult. The most significant bloodborne pathogens include: the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B Virus, Hepatitis C Virus, and Hepatitis D Virus. Bloodborne pathogens can be transmitted through direct physical contact (person to person), indirect contact (object to person), mucous membrane, parenteral inoculation (needlestick, broken skin).

# Guidelines for Prevention of Exposure and Infection

1. Athletic training students, preceptors and faculty must successfully complete annual bloodborne pathogens training.

2. Athletic training students, preceptors and faculty are required to use proper hand washing techniques and practice good hygiene at all times.

3. Athletic training students, prospective athletic training students, clinical preceptors and faculty are required to use standard precautions at all times. This applies to all clinical and affiliated clinical sites.

4. Athletic training students, preceptors and faculty are not to provide patient care if they have active signs or symptoms of an infectious disease.

5. All athletic training students are responsible for maintaining up-­‐to-­‐date vaccinations, including the Hepatitis B vaccination, prior to their clinical education experience, and any other vaccinations required by the university. The student must verify these records as part of the admissions process.

# Guidelines for Managing a Possible Exposure to a Bloodborne Pathogen

1. An athletic training student who has been exposed to a potential bloodborne pathogen before, during or after a clinical experience should report that exposure to his/her preceptor **immediately** and to the Clinical Education Coordinator or Program Director.
2. Acute management of the wound, if applicable, should occur.
3. The athletic training student should receive follow-­‐up care as soon as possible on the day of exposure at one of the following locations:
   1. UCONN Student Health Services *(when classes are in session)*

i. MTRF 8 am-­‐5 pm; W 10:30-­‐5 pm

ii. Advice nurse: M-­‐F 7 pm-­‐8am, weekends (860-­‐486-­‐4700)

* 1. UCONN Health Storrs Urgent Care (860-­‐487-­‐9300)
     1. Mon-­‐Fri 9 am – 9 pm
     2. Weekends and holidays 9 am – 5 pm
  2. Local emergency department (Windham Hospital, 112 Mansfield Ave., Willimantic)

1. The athletic training student MUST report the incident to Student Health Services for documentation purposes as soon as it is open.

# Guidelines for Managing Potential Infection

1. An athletic training student who has been exposed to a potential infection before, during or after a clinical experience should report that exposure to his/her preceptor **immediately** and to the Program Director or Clinical Education Coordinator.
2. Any athletic training student who demonstrates signs or symptoms of an infectious disease that may place him/her and/or his/her patients at risk should report that potential infectious disease to appropriate health care providers, as well as to his/her preceptor.
3. The student is responsible for keeping the Preceptor and Clinical Education Coordinator OR Program Director informed of his/her conditions that require extended care and/or missed class/clinical time. The student may be required to provide written documentation from a

physician (Student Health Services) to return to class and/or clinical site.