**UCONN Athletic Training Program**

**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 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 Cited by the CDC:**

Bloodborne Pathogens, Diarrheal Diseases, Hepatitis Viruses, Measles, Pediculosis, Scabies Varicella, Conjunctivitis, Diptheria, Herpes Simplex, Meningococcal infections, Pertussis Streptococcal infections, Zoster, Cytomegalovirus infections, Enteroviral infections, Human Immunodeficiency, Virus, Mumps, Rubella, Tuberculosis, Viral Respiratory Infections

**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 universal 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. This must be documented and verified by the student as part of admissions process. If an athletic training student chooses to decline the vaccination, he/she must sign the bottom portion of the Immunization Record form.

**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 Dr. Lindsay DiStefano, PhD, ATC, Clinical Education Coordinator or Dr. Stephanie Mazerolle, PhD, ATC, FNATA, Program Director.

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 **immediately** 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.

***The following are suggestions from NATA to prevent the spread of infectious and communicable diseases:***

• Immediately shower after practice or competition

• Wash all athletic clothing worn during practice or competition daily

• Clean and disinfect gym bags and/or travel bags if the athlete is carrying dirty workout gear home to be washed and then bringing clean gear back to school in the same bag. This problem can also be prevented by using disposable bags for practice laundry.

• Wash athletic gear (such as knee or elbow pads) periodically and hang to dry

• Clean and disinfect protective equipment such as helmets, shoulder pads, catcher’s equipment and hockey goalie equipment on a regular basis

• Do not share towels or personal hygiene products with others

• All skin lesions should be covered before practice or competition to prevent risk of infection to the wound and transmission of illness to other participants. Only skin infections that have been properly diagnosed and treated may be covered to allow participation of any kind

• All new skin lesions occurring during practice or competition should be properly diagnosed and treated immediately.

• Playing fields should be inspected regularly for animal droppings that could cause bacterial infections of cuts or abrasions

• Athletic lockers should be sanitized between seasons

• Rather than carpeting, locker or dressing rooms should have tile floors that may be cleaned and sanitized

• Weight room equipment, including benches, bars and handles should be cleaned and sanitized daily

***Your signature below indicates you understand and will adhere by the Athletic Training Program’s Communicable Disease Policy.***

***Any breach of the UCONN’s Communicable Disease Policy will result in disciplinary action outlined in the Discipline Policy, which will be determined by the Program Director and the Clinical Education Coordinator.***

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Student Name Student Signature Date