Adrian College
Athletic Training Program
Communicable Disease Policy

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) outlines specific policies for minimizing exposure of communicable diseases within health care facilities and between health care providers and patients. The Adrian College Athletic Training Program (AT Program) educates health care providers and uses the following provisions to manage communicable diseases that may arise during clinical rotations:

Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Recommendations for Infected Health Care Workers (HCW)

Based upon current scientific information, the following recommendations have been adopted by MDCH to provide protection for patients and HCWs alike. These guidelines should become part of the infection control guidelines for all health care facilities.

Infection Control

1. All HCWs must continually adhere to universal precautions developed by CDC including the appropriate use of hand washing and personal protective equipment.
2. Care must be observed in the use and disposal of needles and sharp instruments to minimize percutaneous exposure to infected blood. Devices with engineered safety features should be utilized wherever possible to prevent unnecessary risks to HCWs and patients.
3. HCWs must comply with current recommended guidelines for disinfection and sterilization of reusable devices.
4. HCWs who have exudative lesions or weeping dermatitis of the hands, forearms, or other body locations that may touch patients, should refrain from performing invasive procedures, and from handling patient care equipment and devices used in invasive procedures until the condition resolves.

Training

5. Training of HCWs in proper infection control technique should begin in professional and vocational schools. All HCWs should receive training on universal precautions, personal protective equipment, and other scientifically accepted infection control practices. Ongoing training should be conducted to continually reinforce proper infection control practices and to inform practitioners of any new infection control procedures and safety devices.
   - It is the AT Program’s policy that formal blood-borne pathogen training for Athletic Training Students (ATS) must occur before students are placed in a potential exposure situation. This includes placement at any clinical site, including observational experiences.

Hepatitis B Vaccination

6. All HCWs who are susceptible to HBV infection should undergo Hepatitis B vaccination, as prescribed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards on Bloodborne Pathogens.
   - All students admitted to Adrian College must have an immunization review on file in the Campus Health Center. This is verified by the AT Program at the time of application to the Professional Phase of the program.

Medical Devices

7. Medical devices, including sharps with engineered safety protection, and safe work procedures that further reduce the risk of exposure to the blood and body fluids of the patient and the HCW, should be used whenever possible.
Testing of Health Care Workers

8. Routine or mandatory HIV, HBV, and/or HCV testing of all HCWs is not recommended, nor should it be a requirement for employment, credentialing, licensure, or insurance.

9. HCWs are encouraged to be aware of their HIV, HBV (including both HBsAg and HBeAg), and HCV serologic status and seek treatment to reduce the risk of transmission of bloodborne pathogens through unanticipated occupational exposures.
   - While infected ATSs are not required to disclose HIV, HBV or HCV status, it is the policy of the AT Program that all students receive training on and properly use universal precautions, personal protective equipment, and other scientifically accepted infection control practices.
   - In a case where an ATS may be infected with a communicable disease other than HIV, HBV or HCV, it is the ATSs responsibility to get evaluated by a licensed health care professional to determine whether there is a need for exclusion from school or clinical practice.
   - Any ATS who exposes a patient to his or her blood/body fluids is ethically bound to inform the patient of this exposure and to undergo testing as appropriate.

Confidentiality and Informed Consent

10. All confidentiality laws must be followed to protect the identity of infected HCWs. Protecting confidentiality will encourage HCWs to be tested. The Michigan Public Health Code (MCL 333.5131, as amended) states that all reports, records and data pertaining to testing, care, treatment, reporting, and research associated with HIV infection and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) are confidential.

Disclosure and Practice Restrictions For Infected Health Care Workers

11. All health care workers who are infected with HIV should be followed up by a medical practitioner who is an expert and experienced in the management of HIV. This medical expert should advise the infected HCW and discuss any practice restrictions that may be appropriate.

Informing Patients of Health Care Worker Status

12. Infected HCWs are not routinely required to disclose their HIV, HBV or HCV status to patients. However, any HCW who exposes a patient to his or her blood/body fluids is ethically bound to inform the patient of this exposure and to undergo testing as appropriate. Facilities should have procedures in place to assure disclosure and appropriate testing and follow-up of patients who are inadvertently exposed to infected HCWs’ blood.

13. If an infected HCW’s serostatus becomes known, any notification of patients should be considered on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration: 1) whether actual exposure has occurred; 2) an assessment of the specific risks; 3) confidentiality issues; and 4) available resources. Any decision to notify patients should be made in consultation with local and state public health officials along with the infected HCW, if available.
Adrian College Athletic Training Program
Communicable Disease Agreement

- I understand that I must properly use universal precautions, personal protective equipment and other scientifically accepted infection control practices at ALL times during patient care.
- I understand that in the event that I contract any communicable disease (see list below), I have an ethical obligation to protect my patients from disease contraction.
- I understand that in the event that I have a communicable disease where common universal precautions may not completely protect my patients, it is my ethical responsibility to report the potential for disease transmission. In consultation with a license health care professional, I may be removed from clinical exposures by the Clinical Education Coordinator until I am cleared to return to clinical duties. During this time, I will not report to my clinical assignment due to the risk of spreading the infection. This will be considered an excused absence having no effect on the final clinical evaluation.
- I understand that all disclosed medical information will be treated confidentially as directed by HIPAA and FERPA regulations.

Communicable Diseases Sited by the CDC:

~Bloodborne pathogens
~ Conjunctivitis
~ Cytomegalovirus
~ Diptheria
~ Gastrointestinal infections
~ Hepatitis A
~ Herpes simplex
~ Measles
~ Meningococcal disease
~ Mumps
~ Parovirus
~ Pertussis
~ Poliomyelitis
~ Rabies
~ Rubella
~ Scabies and pediculosis
~ Staphylococcus aureus infection
~ Streptococcus infection
~ Tuberculosis
~ Vaccinia (smallpox)
~ Varicella
~ Viral respiratory infections (influenza, respiratory syncytial virus)

I certify that I have read and understand the complete communicable disease policy and agree to comply with the statements therein.

___________________________________  ___________________________________
Athletic Training Student’s Printed Name   Athletic Training Student’s Signature

____________________  
Date