SUMMARY:

Prompt recognition and identification is the first step in the control of any communicable disease, whether it is prevalent or emerging. Coastal Carolina University acknowledges the seriousness of this public health problem and in an effort to be prepared for and control communicable diseases, which affect faculty, staff, students and visitors on campus, has developed the following policy and procedures.

POLICY:

I. POLICY

A. Human Resources and Student Health Services shall provide training and/or ongoing educational campaigns to persons about communicable diseases.

B. Persons with communicable diseases shall not be excluded from enrollment or employment or restricted in their access to university facilities, programs or services unless a medically based judgment, in an individual case, establishes that exclusion or restriction is necessary for the health and safety of the infected individual or the health and safety of other members of the university community.

C. Students who know, or have reasonable basis for believing, that they have a communicable disease are encouraged to share that information with clinicians in Student Health Services so the University can respond appropriately to their health and educational needs. Faculty and staff who know, or have reasonable basis for believing, that they have a communicable disease are encouraged to share that information with their supervisor, health care provider, Human Resources and Student Health Services, as appropriate, so the University can respond appropriately to their health and educational needs. Any such disclosure shall be treated, by the recipient, as strictly confidential and no further disclosure shall be made within or outside of the University unless such release is made pursuant to provisions of law that specifically authorize or require the release of such information or records.
D. Persons who know, or have reasonable basis for believing, that they have a communicable disease are expected to seek expert advice about their health circumstances and are obligated, ethically and legally, to conduct themselves responsibly in accordance with such knowledge for the protection of other members of the university community.

E. Persons who have or have been exposed to a communicable disease that endangers the health of others in the work place may be granted leave for a specified period of time, as per the leave and attendance policy established by the South Carolina Division of State Human Resources.

II. PROCEDURES

A. The Provost/ Executive Vice President, or designee, is responsible for advising the president's office regarding campus initiatives for addressing communicable diseases. The Provost/ Executive Vice President, or designee, will work with other administrators, such as directors and department heads, to ensure that relevant information about communicable diseases is available to all faculty, staff, and students and that more detailed information and personal consultation is available upon request.

B. Printed information about communicable diseases is available in Human Resources, Student Health Services, Office of Residence Life, Student Recreation Center and Student Center.

C. Faculty and staff who have knowledge of highly contagious diseases (i.e. meningitis, MRSA, tuberculosis, SARS, etc.) shall notify the Provost/ Executive Vice President, who will initiate the communication cascade which may include University officials and the Horry County Health Department for evaluation, treatment and preventive measures.

D. The official University spokesperson on communicable disease shall be the president, or designee. All inquiries from the press, from elected public officials, or the public, in general, are to be referred to the University spokesperson.

E. No persons with a communicable disease shall, on the basis of such fact, be discriminated against in employment, admission, or other programs or services.

F. This policy and the training, ongoing educational campaigns and departmental communication shall be reviewed annually. Recommendations for policy changes may be forwarded to the Director, Student Health Services.