



Policy Title:	Communicable Diseases
Policy Number:	STUD-321
Revision Date:	July 2021
Policies Superseded:	1869; STUD-169
Policy Management Area(s):	Student Affairs

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. In an effort to be prepared for and control communicable diseases, which affect faculty, staff, students, and visitors on campus, the University has developed the following policy and procedures.

POLICY:

I. POLICY

- A. Communicable disease is defined by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environment Control as an infectious disease that can be transmitted from one source to another.
- B. Environmental Health and Safety and Student Health Services shall provide training and/or ongoing educational campaigns to persons about communicable diseases, as needed.
- C. 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.
- D. 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 health care provider, Human Resources and Equal Opportunity, 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.

- E. 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.
- F. Employees who have or have been exposed to a communicable disease that endangers the health of others in the work place may be granted alternate work arrangements for a specified period of time, as appropriate under University and Division of State Human Resource policies.

II. PROCEDURES

- A. The vice president for Student Success, Enrollment Management, and Student Affairs (VP-SSEMSA), or designee, is responsible for advising the president's office regarding campus initiatives for addressing communicable diseases. The VP-SSEMSA, 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 through Student Health Services.
- C. Faculty and staff who have knowledge of a highly contagious disease (e.g. meningitis, methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), tuberculosis (TB), severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS, SARS-CoV-2)) impacting Coastal Carolina University shall notify Student Health Services, 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 person 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 of Student Health Services.