
EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

Policy Statement

SJBSM is aware that students may accidentally become exposed to blood and/or body fluids of a patient with an infectious disease and thus be at risk of contracting a blood borne pathogen. This policy sets the guidelines and procedures for student protection and safety when participating of academic activities and clinical rotations that expose them to patients with infectious diseases. It seeks to:

- Assure the best physical / mental condition of students
- Strengthen among students the use of adequate hygiene procedures and the responsibility to carry them on
- Provide adequate management of student exposure to infectious diseases
- Reduce non favorable conditions to avoid student absenteeism or incapacity

This policy ensures ongoing compliance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, Occupational Safety and Health Standards (OSHA) guidelines, and Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) standards.

Scope

This policy applies to all students at San Juan Bautista School of Medicine enrolled in academic programs that require coursework, clinical practicums or other university related activities requiring exposure to patients with infectious diseases. It provides students with an introduction to blood borne pathogens and the established protocol that needs to be followed when exposure to human blood or other potential infectious body fluids occurs.

Definitions

- Environmental disease - diseases such as asthma attacks, allergic rhinitis, and other lung problems, that can be directly attributed to unhealthy environments and adverse environmental factors
- Infectious disease - disorders that are caused by organisms, usually microscopic in size, such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, or parasites that are passed, directly or indirectly, from one person to another
- Blood borne disease – a disease caused by a microbial agent capable of being transmitted via contact with the blood of an infected individual. Most common of these diseases are: human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), and hepatitis C virus (HCV)
- Blood borne pathogen - pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans
- Exposure to blood borne pathogens – when human blood or other potentially materials enter a body via a splash to the eye, mouth or other mucous membrane; respiratory secretions, contamination of non-intact skin; or a

puncture or cut with a sharp instrument that has been exposed to another's body fluid

- a. Non-exposure prone procedures - procedures or internal examinations that do not involve possible injury to the health-care person's hand by sharp instruments and/or tissues such as drawing blood, setting intravenous lines, routine oral, vaginal or rectal examinations, minor suturing on surface skin of body, and incision of external abscesses or similar lesions
- b. Exposure prone procedures – invasive procedures where there is potential for direct contact between the skin of the student and sharp instruments, needle tips, or sharp tissues in bone cavities, wounds, or in poorly visualized confined anatomical sites

Policy and Procedures

I. Schools' responsibility

A. SJBSM will be responsible for:

- 1) ensuring students are aware they will be required to engage in the care of patients with infectious diseases
- 2) providing education and training sessions to students related to appropriate methods prevention of infectious diseases as established by CDC and OSHA guidelines
- 3) maintain confidentiality to the maximum extent possible, all information related to student's serological status in compliance with FERPA and HIPAA guidelines
- 4) assist students with the cost of prophylactic medication when the students' health insurance does not provide coverage

II. Students' responsibility

A. Students at SJBSM are required to:

- 1) comply with all medical / immunization criteria established by the school
- 2) participate of all educational / training sessions provided by the school
- 3) complete OSHA and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) certifications
- 4) follow standard precautions and any additional precautions when appropriate when engaging in the clinical care of patients
- 5) disclose any exposure to blood borne pathogens
- 6) comply with the exposure protocol established by the school and/or clinical site
- 7) use their health and/or disability insurance to pay for any medical treatment associated with the exposure
- 8) report to the Deanship of Student Affairs any treatment not covered by their health insurance for reimbursement

III. Prevention Procedures

- ##### **A. In order to reduce the risk of contracting an infectious disease after exposure, students will be required to submit upon enrollment:**

- 1) a physical examination with emphasis of any history of infect-contagious disease
- 2) VDRL and PPD test results
- 3) Evidence of immunization and titers as disclose in the schools' immunization policy

IV. Education and Training

- A. SJBSM will ensure students receive general information about
 - 1) epidemiology and symptoms of blood borne pathogens
 - 2) ways of transmission
 - 3) use of control methods that can reduce exposition
 - 4) how to manage accidents due to punctures and splash to eyes or mucous membrane.
- B. Education will be offered in different levels including but not limited to
 - 1) orientations provided to students at different levels
 - 2) as part of the academic curriculum in courses such as Introduction to Microbiology and Clinical Diagnosis
 - 3) through mandatory profesional trainings which must be renewed as stated in expiration date
 - 4) publication of educational information and policies in electronic platforms, webpage, Student Handbook
 - 5) exposure procedures card to be used with ID

V. Effect of infectious / environmental disease on educational activities

- A. Students infected with blood borne pathogens and/or are not febrile may continue their academic activities without interruption only when their involvement does not constitute a health or safety hazard to themselves or to others as established by their physician
- B. Students that are febrile and/or have been symptoms of an infectious disease must consult with their physician prior to returning to their academic/learning activities
- C. A student who develops an infectious disease after exposure, and/or exhibits symptoms of an environmental disease, will be provided with alternatives to minimize any disruption their academic program in accordance to the physicians, recommendations
- D. Any recommended limitation to a student's learning activities must be informed the Deanship of Students Affairs who will provide an administrative excuse as indicated by the physician that will allow students to make up any missed work without penalty
- E. In the event that the recommended limitation is for a significant amount of time, the student may receive a temporary grade of incomplete, or request a medical leave of absence in accordance with school policies and regulations

Responsibility for implementation

The final responsibility for the enforcement of this policy rests in the Deanship of Student Affairs, but responsibility for implementation and compliance with the policy is also shared by the programmatic curriculum committees, and department directors/ coordinators. The policy and procedures will be reviewed by the "Policy Review Committee" and revisions will be submitted to the President for approval. The

dispositions contain in this Executive Order will be effective immediately.

Related documents and legislation

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines
- Occupational Safety and Health Standards (OSHA) guidelines
- LCME 12.8 Student Exposure Policy/ procedures

Appendix

Pathogen Exposure Incident Report

History

Adopted: October 19, 2006

Revised: June 28, 2024



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President/Dean

Mask Fit Policy**Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and safety of students enrolled at SJBSM against airborne contaminants by ensuring that students comply with the appropriate respiratory protection that is required for all healthcare personnel as established by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA); and LCME standards.

Scope:

This policy applies to all students at SJBSM that are enrolled in academic programs that require coursework, clinical practicums or other related activities requiring exposure to patients with infectious diseases.

Regulations:

All medical students are required to be fit for a N95 Respirator on an annual basis. N95 filtering face piece respirators are air-purifying respirators certified by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) that protect against airborne contaminants (i.e., dusts, fumes, microbial agents such as tuberculosis bacteria & flu virus). As a medical student you may be required to wear N95 for tasks involving patient care.

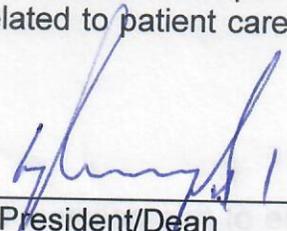
The Deanship of Student Affairs oversees the mask fit process per OSHA guidelines to ensure compliance. Medical students will be approved after successfully completing the following:

1. Medical Evaluation/Clearance to determine if users are physically fit to wear a respirator.
2. Training to ensure users are familiar with N95 Respirators, their proper use and protective limitations. Training consists of reviewing the guidelines and taking the training quiz and is required on an annual basis.
3. Fit-testing to determine which respirator/model size provides the proper fit for the user. Such fit-test is required on an annual basis. For the fit-tests, students must be clean shaven-no mustaches, beards or stubble since this will interfere with the respirator seal. Students who are not clean shaven will not be fit tested. For those students that request an exemption to the clean shaven guidelines, they

will need to complete a waiver form and additional online training. Please contact the Deanship of Student Affairs for additional details.

The Deanship of Student Affairs will coordinate the process for scheduling students for their mask fit training. Students who do not successfully complete all steps of the fit test process will not be allowed to participate in activities related to patient care until this is completed.

Approved: May 5, 2017
Revised: August 5, 2022



President/Dean