

Policies and Procedures**Date: August 8, 2022****Subject: Contagious Disease**

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1. Purpose

This policy establishes the principles for planning and responding to an incident/outbreak of an infectious/communicable disease that affects the college and threatens the life of students/staff or faculty. The policy also identifies certain responsibilities associated with such planning or responses.

2. Policy

Tidewater Community College (TCC) is committed to providing, to the extent possible, a healthy and safe educational environment for all students and employees. In compliance with VCCS policy 6.0.8.1 Contagious Diseases Policy, TCC policy is to prevent the spread of communicable/contagious diseases through measures that focus on safety, prevention, and education and to provide continuity of education in the event of a contagious disease outbreak.

- Persons who know or who have reason to believe that they are infected with a contagious disease of public health significance/threat have an ethical and legal obligation to conduct themselves in accordance with such knowledge in order to protect themselves and others and must follow these guidelines.
- Persons who are infected with a contagious disease must seek expert medical advice and are encouraged to advise local health authorities of a possible

public health threat. They must follow the directions of local health authorities in order to prevent the spread of infection and to protect their own health.

- Persons who know they are infected with a contagious disease are urged to share that information with an appropriate college administrator. Students should contact their respective Campus Dean, and employees should contact the Office of Human Resources so that the College may respond appropriately to their needs and assess the health risks to the college community. Medical information relating to contagious diseases of persons within the college community will be disclosed only to responsible college officials on a need-to-know basis. Infected persons may be required to isolate themselves from the college community until the danger of infection is no longer present.
- No person, group, agency, insurer, employer, or institution shall be provided any medical information without the prior specific written consent of the student, employee, or other college community member unless required by state and/or federal law. Furthermore, all medical information relating to contagious diseases of students, employees, or other college community members will be kept confidential, according to state and federal law, including the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.
- TCC students, staff, and faculty will refrain from any activity or action that could result in exposure to bloodborne pathogens.

Authority for interpretation and execution of this policy rests with the Vice President for Student Affairs for students and the AVP for Human Resources for employees.

3. Responsibilities

The Vice President for Student Affairs, in coordination with the Director of Public Safety, shall be responsible for developing and maintaining the college's contagious disease policy and any associated procedures that are consistent with this policy and that comply with applicable policies and procedures of the Virginia Community College System and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

4. Procedures

Procedures for this policy are in the Student Handbook, Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, the Faculty Handbook, and the Classified Employee Handbook.

5. Definitions

Contagious disease - an infectious disease that is spread from person to person through casual contact or respiratory droplets, which may lead to an epidemic or pandemic situation and threaten the health of the campus community. These diseases include but are not limited to: coronavirus, tuberculosis (TB), measles or German measles (rubella), certain strains of hepatitis and meningitis, as well as SARS and certain strains of influenza. Other potentially less serious infectious diseases, such as chicken pox and pneumonia will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Epidemic - the occurrence in a community or region of cases of an illness clearly in excess of normal expectancy.

6. References

[DHRM Policy 4.52, Public Health Emergency Leave](#)

[VCCS Policy \(6.0.8.1\), Contagious Diseases](#)

7. Review Periodicity and Responsibility

The Vice President for Student Affairs shall review this policy annually on the anniversary of its approval and, if necessary, recommend revisions.

8. Effective Date and Approval

This policy is effective upon its approval by the College President on August 8, 2022.

Policy Approved:

Procedure Developed:

Marcia Conston, Ph.D.
President

Karen Campbell, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs

9. Review and Revision History

- Revision 1

Updated titles to reflect college structure, and also link to VCCS Policy.

Approved August 8, 2022 by President Conston.