

Appendix J

Infectious Illness Policy

Athletic training students have a small but real health risk during their clinical experiences. They frequently come into contact with athletes who are ill with potentially infectious illnesses, and they often are required to tape or bandage wounds that present the potential for contact with blood borne pathogens. In addition, athletic training students who are ill with infectious illnesses may present a health risk to patients/athletes. The University of Texas-Permian Basin Athletic Training Education Program (UTPB ATEP) aspires to prevent disease exposure to staff, athletic training students, and patients/student-athletes.

Athletic training students must use universal precautions to limit the exposure to blood borne pathogens. OSHA blood borne pathogen training (or other acceptable training) for medical workers will be conducted annually for athletic training students in the fall. Institutional and program infection control policies will also be reviewed at this time. Hepatitis B vaccinations will be made available through the student health service at a reasonable cost to the athletic training students.

Athletic training students must realize that ill health care workers present some risk to the patients/athletes they treat and with whom they come in contact. To limit this risk, the following steps will be followed:

1. If an athletic training student is ill, the student will be examined by a physician (or other licensed health care provider) of his/her choice. The physician will determine the appropriate treatment and the amount of time the student will be absent (if applicable) from clinical experiences.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) provides specific guidelines for reporting communicable and infectious illness (see table 3 from the CDC web page <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/guidelines/InfectControl98.pdf>). These guidelines are designed to provide for the uniform reporting of diseases of public health importance within the community, in order that appropriate control measures may be instituted to interrupt the transmission of disease, and will be followed by the BSU Athletic Training Education Program.

2. If it is determined that the athletic training student may have a potentially infectious illness, he/she will be asked to relate that information to their clinical instructor and the ATEP Program Director before their next scheduled clinical experience time.
3. The ATEP Program Director, in consultation with the ATEP Medical Director, will determine if the athletic training student requires further physician (or other related licensed health care provider) consultation/examination before he/she returns to their clinical experiences. The physician may schedule an examination, bar the

athletic training student from reporting to their clinical setting, or permit the athletic training student to report back to their clinical setting.

4. Staff clinical supervisors may require that an ATS who appears ill, to be examined by either a physician (or other licensed health care provider) of the ATSs choosing.
5. A physician (or other licensed health care provider) must examine ATSs who miss any clinical assignment time due to infectious illness before they are allowed to resume clinical assignments.