

UAEACCP 502.1.2 COMMUNICABLE DISEASES – STUDENTS**I. Student Communicable Diseases Policy**

UA-EACC places a high priority on the need to prevent the spread of communicable diseases on campus. The transmission risks of communicable diseases such as measles, hepatitis, COVID-19, tuberculosis, and others can be greatly reduced by effective safety practices. Some communicable diseases are chronic and have lifelong effects. Equally important is to safeguard individual rights while protecting others on campus from needless, careless exposure. Consequently, the following guidelines are hereby instituted.

II. Definitions

Communicable disease means an illness caused by an infectious agent or its toxins that occurs through the direct or indirect transmission of the infectious agent or its products from an infected individual or via an animal, vector or the inanimate environment to a susceptible animal or human host (CDC.gov). A significant communicable disease is one that poses a health threat to the infected individual, or those that she/he comes in contact with or is in close proximity to.

III. Right to Privacy

The college will respect the right of privacy of any student who has or is a carrier of a communicable disease. The medical condition of an affected person will be disclosed only to the extent necessary to minimize the health risks to employees and other students.

IV. Students with Communicable Diseases

1. A student who has a chronic communicable disease or who is a carrier of a chronic communicable disease may attend UA-EACC and participate in programs and activities whenever, through reasonable accommodation, there is no significant risk of transmission of the disease to others. It is the student's responsibility to take all reasonable steps to request or ensure accommodations that prevent risk to others.
2. A student who has a chronic communicable disease or who is a carrier of a chronic communicable disease may be denied admission to, or may be dismissed from, a particular program or course of study whenever such chronic communicable disease presents significant risks of transmission having a direct effect on the student's ability to perform effectively, thereby rendering the student not qualified for the program or course of study.
3. In addition, no other person who has a chronic communicable disease or who is a carrier of a chronic communicable disease shall be denied the use of UA-EACC facilities or services whenever, through reasonable accommodation, there is no significant risk of transmission of the disease to others. However, it is the person's responsibility to take all reasonable steps to ensure accommodations that prevent risk to others.
4. Due to the variety of possible situations that may occur, it is not feasible to provide specific, definitive administrative procedures that will apply in each case. The policies and procedures described herein serve as a general guide that may be utilized as the specific situation dictates. A student with a communicable disease may be temporarily excluded from campus until the risks of transmission of the disease to others can be reasonably determined.

V. Reporting and Protection Against Communicable Diseases

1. Students shall notify Adam O'Neal, Vice Chancellor for Student Services, if they have or are a carrier of a communicable disease when there is a risk of transmitting the disease to others on campus. Mr. O'Neal can be reached by calling 870-270-0552 ext. 215 or emailing aoneal@eacc.edu.
2. Such notification allows the college to evaluate each individual case and take the necessary precautions to minimize the risks of transmission to others. It is essential that strict confidentiality be maintained regarding the health condition of any student.
3. **Consequences:** The willful or careless exposure of other persons by an individual who has or is a carrier of a communicable disease is a reckless, inconsiderate, negligent act which endangers everyone. If it is determined that a person has or is a carrier of a communicable disease and that person has not taken adequate precautions to prevent transmission of the disease to others, or has not followed the procedures and policies listed herein, that person will be subject to suspension or dismissal from UA-EACC.
4. **Tuberculosis:** Students who suspect they are suffering from TB (or any other chronic communicable disease) must contact their healthcare provider immediately. Local county health department units will be informed of all confirmed TB cases. Students should follow the reporting procedures listed in this policy and procedure document.
 - a. The campus response to reported TB cases on campus will be fully coordinated with the local county health department units.
 - b. Students and faculty who shared classroom or office space with the individual will be notified.
 - c. Confidentiality of the person with tuberculosis will be protected.
5. **Measles:** Measles is highly contagious and as of 2025, the United States is experiencing an ongoing outbreak of this disease. Measles is highly contagious and spreads through:
 - a. Airborne transmission when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes,
 - b. Touching contaminated surfaces and then touching the mouth, nose, or eyes, and
 - c. Airborne particles that linger for up to two hours after an infected person leaves an area.

Symptoms typically appear 7–14 days after exposure and may include fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, and a rash that spreads over the body. A person with measles is contagious for about eight days—from four days before the rash appears until four days after.

According to CDC data, two doses of the MMR vaccine are 97% effective in preventing measles. For more information, go to www.cdc.gov/measles or contact a healthcare provider.

What to Do If You Are Concerned About Exposure to Measles:

Students who believe they have been exposed to measles must contact their health care provider or the department of health immediately and isolate themselves from others.

What to Do If You Have Confirmed Exposure to, or a Confirmed Case of, Measles:

Students who have a confirmed case or confirmed exposure should contact Adam O'Neal, Vice Chancellor for Student Services, who will work with the Vice Chancellor for Academics Office to notify faculty in an appropriately discreet manner to determine appropriate measures and accommodations. The campus response to reported measles cases on campus will be fully coordinated with the local county health department units. Students and faculty who shared classroom or office space with the individual will be notified; however, confidentiality of the person with measles will be protected. Mr. O'Neal can be reached by calling 870-270-0552 ext. 215 or emailing aoneal@eacc.edu.

VI. Precautionary Measures for Specific Groups.

1. **Allied Health Faculty and Students:** Allied Health faculty members and students could be exposed to communicable diseases on more than a casual, routine basis. Accordingly, special precautions and protective measures are necessary to prevent needless exposure to chronic communicable diseases. The Dean of the Allied Health will take action to see that precautions, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and the Arkansas Health Department, are rigidly practiced in all health occupation programs.
2. **Faculty and Students in the Sciences:** Some laboratory sciences methods of instruction may involve contact and/or exposure to human blood and body fluids. Current scientific data indicate that special precautions need to be practiced in such contact/exposure situations. The Dean of Transfer Education will take action to see that adequate precautions are taken in instructional situations that have the potential to present exposure risks to communicable diseases.
3. **Participants in Certain Athletic Activities:** Certain kinds of athletic activities involving bodily contact may occasionally result in accidents or injuries which expose blood or body fluids. The Dean of Student Experience will take action to see that participants and chaperones are aware of and practice precautionary measures in situations which have the potential to present exposure risks to communicable diseases.

VII. Immunization Record

1. The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) pursuant to Act 141 of 1987 requires that full-time students **MUST** provide proof of immunization against measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR). Proof of immunization, immunity, a medical or non-medical exemption, or birth before 1957 must be provided. The following are acceptable proof:
 - a. immunization record from another educational institution, a licensed medical doctor, or an authorized public health representative; or
 - b. military service showing the dates MMR shots were given.
2. In lieu of receiving a vaccine, immunity may be shown by providing documented evidence of appropriate serological testing which must be submitted by the student to the Arkansas



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Department of Health, Immunization Section, 4815 W. Markham, Mail Slot 48, Little Rock, AR 72205. The ADH will send a letter to the student advising if immunity has been granted and it is the student's responsibility to bring the letter to the Registrar's Office.

3. Proof of immunization may be waived only upon receipt by the Records Office of an authorized exemption from ADH for medical, religious, or philosophical reasons. Exemption forms can be requested by emailing the Arkansas Department of Health at immunization.section@arkansas.gov. These forms must be completed, notarized, and mailed to the ADH at 4815 W. Markham, Mail Slot 48, Little Rock, AR 72205. If approved the ADH will then send a letter confirming exemption and term to the student. It is the student's responsibility to bring this letter to the Registrar's Office. This exemption must be renewed annually.
4. Proof of a birth date **prior** to January 1, 1957, will be accepted in lieu of receiving vaccine. Students must provide a copy of their birth certificate, current driver's license, or other state or federal-issued ID showing their date of birth
5. A hold will be placed on a student's record until the required documents are received.
6. Immunization records presented for admission become part of the student's permanent record and the property of UA-EACC and are not reissued.

VIII. Meningococcal Disease (Meningitis)

Act 1233 of 1999 requires colleges and universities to inform students of the increased risk of meningococcal disease (commonly called meningitis) for those who live in close quarters. Although UA-EACC does not provide student housing, the college recommends that all students living in close quarters discuss with their healthcare provider the benefits of the meningitis vaccine.

Other applicable documents:

UA-EACC 501.1.1 Code of Student Conduct

Revision History:

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Reviewed/Approved by:	UA-EACC Chancellor, UA-EACC Student Services, UA-EACC Human Resources, UA-EACC Academics, UA-EACC Campus Safety, March 2025