

Airborne Pathogen Exposure

Policy Adopted for BUCOM 9/29/2022

Policy Information			
Policy# :	STU.5000	Reviewed Date(s):	6/15; 09/22
Date Created:	December 1, 2014	Revised Date(s):	6/16; 06/20; 09/22
Responsible College Administrator:	Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs	President Council Approved Date:	9/29/2022

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To prevent infectious exposure from airborne transmission during student participation in clinical education.
- 1.2. To provide evaluation, appropriate counseling and follow-up to students after actual or potential exposure to airborne pathogens during clinical activities.
- 1.3. To prevent transmission of pathogens through the airborne route, including but not limited to the following infectious disorders: COVID-19, tuberculosis, measles, and/or chickenpox (until lesions have crusted over).

2. Policy

- 2.1. Professional licensing requirements established by the State of Tennessee and/or national accreditation/certification standards require all students to participate in a specified number of clinical hours involving direct patient care. If students choose not to participate in the clinical experiences for any reason, including the COVID-19 pandemic, their academic progression may be delayed.
- 2.2. Students are aware of the risks associated with the clinical experience which include, but are not limited to, physical or psychological injury, pain, suffering, contagiousness, illness, temporary or permanent disability, economic or emotional loss, and/or death. By participating in the clinical experiences, students acknowledge they have been made aware of risks, known or unknown, associated with or attributable to their clinical experiences including, but not limited to, the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2.3. Students assigned to patients requiring the use of airborne precautions must be fit-tested with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) approved particulate filtering face piece respirator such as the N-95 respirator.
- 2.4. Students who have not been fit-tested should not enter patient rooms or participate in procedures which require the use of a NIOSH approved particulate filtering face piece respirator. Eye protection (goggles) may also be required for any direct contact with COVID-19 patients or exposure to aerosolizing procedures.
- 2.5. All students who sustain unprotected exposure to airborne pathogens should be evaluated promptly.

- 2.6. For students with suspected exposure to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, a baseline tuberculin skin test (TST) and symptom screen should be administered as soon as possible after exposure. If initial test is negative, administer a second test and complete a symptom screen 8-10 weeks after the most recent exposure has occurred. Students with a previously known positive TST who have been exposed to an infectious patient do not require a repeat TST or chest x-ray unless they have symptoms of TB.

3. Definitions

- 3.1. None.

4. Procedure

- 4.1. Student will report exposure to faculty member and appropriate representative of agency. The agency's Infection Control and Employee Health nurse is to be notified so that patient evaluation can begin.
- 4.2. Faculty will complete agency's unusual occurrence/incident form.
- 4.3. Faculty will notify the nearest Baptist Minor Med facility of the occurrence. Minor Med will provide counseling and follow-up appropriate to the injury. If a Baptist Minor Med facility is not available in the location of the clinical experience, students are to report to the nearest urgent/emergency care facility.
- 4.4. If the exposure occurs after hours, on a weekend or holiday, faculty will report to the facility's Employee Health Office or Emergency Department. It is very important that these procedures are followed as students are responsible for any bills incurred from other agencies outside of the Baptist Minor Med.
- 4.5. Faculty will notify the appropriate dean of the occurrence.
- 4.6. Faculty will request the dean or their designee to complete an electronic occurrence report (EOR) for Baptist University.
- 4.7. Students are strongly encouraged to maintain health insurance while enrolled at the University and are responsible for out-of-pocket expenses related to the exposure. Students enrolled in the Baptist University College of Osteopathic Medicine are required to maintain health insurance.

5. Related Information

- 5.1. None.