

POLICY: Effects of Infectious and/or Environmental Disease or Disability on Educational Activities

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE:	LAST REVISION DATE:	RESPONSIBLE DIVISION/ DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE
March 14, 2025	March 14, 2025	Curriculum Committee Office of Student Affairs

POLICY STATEMENT

HWCOM will provide reasonable modifications to learning activities, including clinical training, for students with documented infections and/or environmental diseases or disabilities.

Bloodborne Pathogens:

HWCOM is committed to educating all medical students, regardless of health or disability status, while ensuring patient safety. Following Procedure: Effects of Infectious and/or Environmental Disease or Disability on Educational Activities, students with bloodborne infections are allowed to participate only in those clinical activities that do not result in risks to patients. Infection with a blood borne pathogen should not require restrictions on rendering care to patients in most circumstances. However, special considerations may be appropriate when exposure-prone invasive procedures are performed.

Environmental Disease:

Students with environmental diseases should be evaluated by their primary care physician or an appropriate specialist to determine the impact, if any, on their learning activities. Required limitations in learning activities should be communicated to the Office of Student Affairs and every effort will be made to minimize the disruption of the student's progress through the curriculum. Depending on the nature of the impact, consultation with the FIU Disability Resource Center may be required.

Disabilities:

Students with disabilities should contact the FIU Disability Resource Center regarding accommodations, if applicable. The Office of Student Affairs will work with the student and the DRC to determine the impact, if any, on the student's learning activities.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all medical students.

REASON FOR POLICY

This policy addresses the effects of infectious and/or environmental disease or disability on medical student learning activities.

This policy relates to LCME Element 12.8 which states that: “medical school has policies in place that effectively address medical student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards.”

DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITIONS
Environmental disease	Noninfectious acute disorders associated with environmental exposures such as chemical or thermal burns or physical injuries such as falls.

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

Associate Dean for Student Affairs

RELATED RESOURCES

Policy, Medical Student Disability Accommodations
 Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for health care personnel
 Procedure, Effects of Infectious and/or Environmental Disease or Disability on Educational Activities

CONTACTS

Questions about this policy should be directed towards the Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Office of Student Affairs.

HISTORY

List initial effective date, revision dates, and/or review date.

Initial Effective Date: March 14, 2025

Review Dates (*review performed, no updates*): N/A

Revision Dates (*updates made to document*): March 14, 2025

PROCEDURE: Effects of Infectious and/or Environmental Disease or Disability on Educational Activities

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PROCEDURE STATEMENT

When it becomes known that a student at HWCOM is infected with a potentially transmissible blood borne pathogen, an ad hoc health advisory council meeting will be organized by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs to review the student's duties considering the nature of the activity, risk factors involved, and transmissibility of infectious agents. Drawing upon consultations as needed, this council will formulate a judgment as to whether modification of clinical training or patient contacts should be limited in any way.

The identity of the student with the bloodborne infection will be kept confidential.

Record of the advisory council's review and recommendations will be kept in the student's confidential file.