



Bethel University Communicable Disease Policy

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) outlines specific policies for minimizing exposure of communicable diseases within healthcare facilities and between healthcare providers and patients. The Bethel University Athletic Training Program is educating healthcare providers and we choose to use the following provisions to manage communicable diseases that may arise in our on campus athletic training room and in off-campus affiliated sites.

GUIDELINES: (CDC Personnel Health Guideline, 1998)

- A Well-defined policy must be in place, concerning contact of personnel with patients when personnel have potentially transmissible conditions.
- The policy should include:
 - Personnel responsibility in using the health service and reporting illness
 - Work restrictions
 - Clearance for work after an illness that required work restriction.
- Identify the person with authority to relieve personnel of duties.
- Develop work-exclusion policies that encourage personnel to report their illnesses or exposures and that do not penalize them with loss of wages, benefits, or job status.
- Educate and encourage personnel who have signs and symptoms of a transmissible infectious disease to report their condition promptly to their supervisor and occupational health.
- Provide appropriate education for personnel on the importance of good hygienic practices, especially hand washing and covering the nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing.

POLICY:

If an athletic training student becomes ill, he/she should report to the Student Health Center on campus or to another medical practitioner for evaluation. Upon evaluation the medical practitioner will determine the appropriate intervention needed and the amount of time the student shall remain out of contact with others to prevent transmission.

If the athletic training student acquires a communicable disease, the student will notify their Approved Clinical Instructor (Preceptor) as soon as possible. The Preceptor will then notify the Clinical Coordinator of the athletic training student's condition including the amount of time the student will be absent from the clinical experience.

The student will not be permitted to return to the clinical experience until he/she has been re-evaluated by a medical practitioner. A signed release from a medical practitioner must be filed with the PRECEPTOR and Clinical Coordinator in order for the student to return to the Bethel University Athletic Training Room or an affiliated clinical site.

The Center for CDC provides these preventative guidelines for the reporting of communicable disease with health care facilities. These regulations are designed to provide for the uniform awareness, prevention, and reporting of diseases in order that appropriate control measures may be instituted to interrupt the transmission of disease. Since Athletic Training students are providing direct health care to patients under the supervision of a Preceptor, the appropriate precautions must be utilized. Any student who acquires any of the listed communicable disease will be dismissed from the clinical experience at Bethel University or other affiliated sites until a medical practitioner has deemed the student non-contagious.

Communicable Diseases sited by the CDC:

- Bloodborne pathogens
- Conjunctivitis
- Cytomegalovirus
- Diphtheria
- Gastrointestinal infections, acute
- Hepatitis A
- Herpes simplex
- Measles
- Meningococcal disease
- Mumps
- Parovirus
- Pertussis
- Poliomyelitis
- Rabies
- Rubella
- Scabies and pediculosis
- Staphylococcus aureus infection and carriage
- Streptococcus infection
- Tuberculosis

**Bethel University
Athletic Training Program
Student Illness Policy on Communicable Diseases**

The Bethel University Athletic Training Program recognizes the importance of minimizing the exposure of athletes or patients in a clinical setting to communicable diseases. Therefore, athletic training students should not report to their clinical site if they have *active* signs or symptoms of a communicable disease.

Athletic Training Students are to immediately notify their Clinical Supervisor of their status and an estimate of how long they will need to be absent from their clinical assignment. It is the option of the athletic training student whether or not to seek medical attention when they have communicable disease symptoms, but seeking such attention is strongly recommended. Athletic Training Students may use their own personal physician. If the student does not have access to their own physician they may also utilize the Bethel University Student Health facility or BU team physicians if available. At that time the Athletic Training Student is to follow the recommendations and guidelines of that physician.

If the athletic training student has been diagnosed with a communicable disease listed in the Bethel University ATP Communicable Disease Policy, the student may not resume clinical education experiences until cleared by the appropriate health care provider.

In the event that a Preceptor/CI feels that an athletic training student assigned to his/her site is missing an inordinate amount of time due to adherence to the communicable disease policy, he/she should contact the Bethel University Athletic Training Program Director and/or Clinical Director.

Athletic Training Student Print Name

Date

Signature
