Keywords: disability, environmental disease, exposure, infectious disease, needlestick

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I. PURPOSE

It is important to maintain the health and well-being of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (JHUSOM) students and to ensure they are able to participate in medical student activities to the fullest extent possible. The purpose of this policy is to outline the measures in place to address/prevent medical student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards and to describe the mechanisms and resources for determining the effects of infectious and environmental disease or disability on medical student learning activities.

This policy applies to all JHUSOM medical students (in pursuit of the MD or MD/PhD degree) at the JHUSOM.

II. Methods of Prevention of Transmission of Disease

Methods of Prevention of Transmission of Disease

The JHUSOM carries out the following measures of prevention:

- **Immunizations and Screenings:** In order to reduce the risk of medical students of acquiring or transmitting infectious diseases, medical students are required to have the following immunizations (or acceptable proof of immunity) and tuberculosis screening as required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Maryland Department of Health, Maryland law, and Johns Hopkins Medicine:
  - Measles, Mumps, Rubella
  - Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis
  - Varicella
  - Seasonal Influenza (annually)
  - COVID-19
  - Hepatitis B
  - Tuberculosis (TB) Screening

Please see:

JHU Student Vaccine Policy: https://policies.jhu.edu/doc/fetch.cfm/8QY8TA4H

JHM Mandatory Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Policy: https://hpo.johnshopkins.edu/doc/fetch.cfm/6GIQqmFh

JHM COVID-19 Vaccination Policy: https://hpo.johnshopkins.edu/doc/fetch.cfm/f5H2KJZM
Employee Vaccination Requirements: https://hpo.johnshopkins.edu/doc/fetch.cfm/OV5My6rc

- **Medical Student Education:** The JHUSOM requires medical students to complete training on infection prevention, blood borne pathogens, tuberculosis awareness, emergency preparedness, hazard communication and safety, fire safety, and preventing exposure to infectious and environmental hazards. Additionally, medical students are required to undergo fit testing for N95 mask respirators and complete training in Infection Prevention in Clinical Areas.
- **Annual Reminders and Publication of Procedures:** Medical students receive annual email reminders about each campus’s needle stick procedures and blood borne pathogen exposure procedures. Additionally, policies and procedures are posted on the JHUSOM website. Please see: Healthcare Workers’ Responsibilities and Management of Bloodborne Pathogen Exposures (5-STIX) https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/hse/stix.html

### III. Procedures for Care and Treatment after Exposure

Per Johns Hopkins Hospital (JHH)/Johns Hopkins University (JHU) policy, Occupational Health Services serves healthcare workers, including medical students, at the East Baltimore campus. For all exposures, students should immediately wash hands and any other skin with soap and water, and/or flush mucus membranes with water and call: 5-STIX (410-955-7849).

The components of care and treatment after exposure can be subdivided into two major areas:

- **Bloodborne pathogen exposures** - For detailed information about the protocols used for these exposures, please see HSE 501 Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan
- **Other select communicable disease exposures** – For detailed information about the protocols used for this exposure, please see HEIC 001 Management of Patient, Visitor, and Healthcare Personnel for Exposures to, and Prevention of, Select Communicable Diseases.

### IV. Financial Responsibility

- Following exposure, any necessary post-exposure evaluation, treatment, and follow-up will be provided free of charge. Please see section V.I.3 of Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan: https://hpo.johnshopkins.edu/hse/policies/156/10973/policy_10973.pdf

### V. Effects of Infectious and/or Environmental Disease or Disability on Educational Activities

#### Infectious Diseases

- Bloodborne pathogens (HIV/HBV/HCV): JHU and JHH offer voluntary HIV/HBV/HCV testing through Occupational Health Services at no cost. Individuals will be informed confidentially of results and guidance will be provided as required. Please see section V.I. of Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan: https://hpo.johnshopkins.edu/doc/fetch.cfm/vTKBjgQ6
Medical students are not required to disclose a positive diagnosis. If they choose to disclose their diagnosis in order to seek guidance around how to maximize patient safety during their clinical interactions, a small confidential group will be convened with one representative each from Student Health and Well-Being Primary Care – East Baltimore, the Office of Medical Student Affairs, and the Johns Hopkins Health System (JHHS) Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control (HEIC) to minimize the effect on educational activities. Please see Infection Control Management of Personnel IFC002, Appendix A. Work Restrictions for Personnel Exposed to or Having Select Communicable Diseases: [https://hpo.johnshopkins.edu/doc/fetch.cfm/YOP4t1O0](https://hpo.johnshopkins.edu/doc/fetch.cfm/YOP4t1O0)

Tuberculosis (TB): The only communicable disease for which screening and periodic testing may be required is TB. Students with active TB will be excluded from medical student learning activities until completion of two (2) weeks of appropriate therapy and clinical improvement has been documented with the addition of three (3) negative Acid-Fast Bacilli (AFB) smears. Students with latent TB will not be restricted, but must follow up with Student Health and Well-Being Primary Care – East Baltimore for a latent TB consultation and annual evaluation for TB symptoms. Please see [https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/hse/forms/tbfaq.pdf](https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/hse/forms/tbfaq.pdf)

COVID 19: Students who exhibit symptoms of COVID 19, share a household with someone diagnosed COVID 19, or test positive for COVID 19 may return to medical student learning activities according to JHHS HEIC published guidance. Please see: [https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/hse/jhccc](https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/hse/jhccc)

COVID Positive Test Submission Form

Environmental Disease

Students with environmental diseases should seek evaluation at Occupational Health Services to determine the impact, if any, on their learning activities. Depending on the nature of the student’s environmental disease, they may wish to consult with a specialist, and if so, the physician will be required to comply with Non-Involvement of Providers of Student Health Services in Student Assessment, if the health care provider is involved in medical student teaching and/or evaluation. Required limitations in learning activities will be communicated to the Associate Dean of Medical Student Affairs and every effort will be made to minimize disruption of the student’s progress through the curriculum.

Disabilities

Students with disabilities should contact the Student Disability Services coordinator regarding accommodations, if applicable. The Office of Medical Student Affairs will work with the student and the coordinator to determine the impact, if any, on the student’s learning activities. [https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/som/education-programs/md-program/our-students/disability-services](https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/som/education-programs/md-program/our-students/disability-services)

VI. Administrative Excuses

Preclinical students with infectious and/or environmental diseases may request an administrative excuse for any required activity from the Office of Medical Student Affairs. The administrative excuse allows the student to make up missed work without penalty. If the student needs to miss a significant amount of time, the student may receive an Incomplete and a plan will be developed with the student, his/her/their advisor, the Learning Specialist, Student Disability Services coordinator (if applicable), the Associate Dean for Medical Student Affairs and the course director.

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Clinical students with infectious and/or environmental diseases may similarly request an administrative excuse from the Office of Medical Student Affairs.

In addition, students who are unsure whether their condition should excuse them from a clinical setting for patient safety reasons may be screened by their primary care provider.

VII. SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

**Responsible Office:** Office of Medical Student Affairs

**Responsible Role:** Associate Dean for Medical Student Affairs