

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC TRAINING PROGRAM

Communicable Disease Policy

The purpose of Liberty University's Athletic Training Program (ATP) Communicable Disease Policy is to protect the health and safety of the students, faculty members, preceptors, and patients. This policy will ensure the welfare of the students enrolled in the Athletic Training major as well as those patients you may come in contact with during your clinical experiences. It is designed to provide Athletic Training students, preceptors, and faculty with a plan to assist in the management of students with infectious diseases as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This policy was developed using the recommendations established by the CDC for health care workers (www.cdc.gov).

Definition of Communicable Diseases

A communicable disease is a disease that can be transmitted from one person to another. There are four main types of transmission including direct physical contact, air (through a cough, sneeze, or other particle inhaled), a vehicle (ingested or injected), and a vector (via animals or insects).

Examples of Communicable Diseases by the CDC:

Bloodborne Pathogens	Conjunctivitis	Cytomegalovirus infections
Diarrheal diseases	Diphtheria	Enteroviral infections
Hepatitis viruses	Herpes simplex	Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)
Measles	Meningococcal infections	Mumps
Pediculosis	Pertussis	Rubella
Scabies	Streptococcal infection	Tuberculosis
Varicella Zoster	Viral respiratory infections	Viral infections
Mononucleosis	Influenza	

Prevention of Communicable Diseases

- Students in Liberty's ATP are required to have a physical exam completed by a licensed physician prior to being initially accepted.
- Students in Liberty's ATP complete Bloodborne and Airborne Pathogens training prior to beginning any clinical or observational experiences.
- Students in Liberty's ATP review the Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Policy annually when they review the ATP Handbook
- Students in Liberty's ATP complete annual TB Screening/Testing.
- Students are required to properly wash their hands and practice good hygiene.
- Students are required to use Universal Precautions all the time.
- Students with an active communicable disease will not attend classes or clinical experiences until a physician clears him/her to return.

Steps to Follow with Communicable Diseases

1. Report the communicable disease to the preceptor, ATP Clinical Coordinator, and faculty member of the clinical education course you are currently enrolled in.
2. Seek immediate medical attention at the LU Campus Health Services or another local healthcare provider. Inform the provider that you are a student enrolled in an Allied Healthcare Major and discuss whether you should be restricted from interaction at clinical sites and/or classes.
3. Obtain written documentation from the attending physician in regards to your ability to continue with classes and clinical experiences or if restrictions are required.
4. Share the documentation with the clinical coordinator, preceptor, and faculty instructing your courses.

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC TRAINING PROGRAM

Communicable Disease Policy

5. If the student is ill enough to miss ANY class or clinical experience, the student must notify the faculty teaching the course or preceptor immediately. Any absence must be supported with written documentation from the attending physician.
6. The student will not be allowed to attend classes or clinical experiences until he/she is cleared by a physician. Appropriate remediation will be allowed to the student as long as the procedures above are followed. In the event there is a prolonged communicable illness and the student cannot finish the required clinical experience hours or required coursework, a grade of "I" (incomplete) will be granted and the student will be allowed to make-up the work in the following semester.
7. Students 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 filled with the Clinical Coordinator in order for the student to return to his/her clinical experience.