

07.07 INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Infectious Disease Policy

Date Approved: November 1, 2018

Responsible Office: Human Resources

Responsible Executive: Executive Director Human Resources, Compliance & Security

Date Revised:

Purpose of the Infectious Disease Policy is to:

- Safe guard the welfare of students, faculty, staff and RVCC Community;
- Inform, advise and implement the appropriate infection control precautions;
- Actions of local and State Department of Health are followed.

Scope

This Policy shall be implemented for communicable diseases commonly found in the college population which can be transmitted by air, object or through casual contact. Examples of these communicable diseases are noted below, but are not limited to:

Anthrax	Meningitis – bacterial and viral	Tuberculosis (TB)
Brucellosis	MRSA	Varicella (Chicken Pox)
Coronavirus/COVID-19		
Diphtheria	Mumps	Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers
Foodborne Illness	Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	
Hepatitis A	Rubella (Measles)	
Influenza	SARS	

Please refer to https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/reportable_diseases.pdf for a complete listing of communicable diseases and work-related conditions. Therefore, the scope of this policy includes any communicable disease that poses a risk to the college community.

The scope of this policy also includes other communicable diseases that pose risks similar to the diseases listed above and which would put Raritan Valley Community at risk.

Requirements

It is the responsibility of the Raritan Valley Community College, Faculty, Staff and Students to notify immediately either their supervisor, Professor/Department Chair/Dean, Human Resources and/or Branchburg Health Department in the event that he/she develops an infectious communicable disease. Following the report of an infectious communicable disease, the guidelines are outlined below is to be followed.

Guidelines

1. Notify the Branchburg Health Department if the notification did not originate there. Ask for their assistance in determining the risk and recommended actions. They will verify with their sources that information provided to us is correct i.e. there is a case of TB, Ebola, etc.

2. Convene the 'Infectious Disease' committee which is made up of representatives from HR (Cheryl Wallace), Health Science Education Department (Heather Heithoff), Student Services (Jason Fredericks), facilities (Philip Weaver and/or Nely Diaz) and Provost (Debi Preston).
 - a. Decide next steps based on the recommendation from the Health Department.
 - b. Identify places the infected person or persons might have been – and determine if specific information needs to be given to those most likely to have been in contact. (As soon as the notification comes out, there will be questions from people who have health concerns.) Please note: It is the utmost importance to protect the patient's confidentiality, whenever possible. Refer to <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/reporting/> for more information.
 - c. Once the infectious disease is confirmed, notification is sent to the entire college community if directed by the Department of Health. The Health Science Education Department representative will provide detailed information about the infectious disease with links to the CDC and/or Department of Health placed in Lion's Den or on the College's website.
 - d. Notification to Faculty/Staff will be done by the Human Resource Representative and Student Services Representative.
 - e. Human Resource Representative will contact the individual to tell them what is needed to return to campus, such as follow up with Health Department and/or medical release back to class/work/campus.
3. Students and Faculty/Staff should refer to their respective handbook and/or collective bargaining agreement for policies regarding attendance and absences.

The next steps depend on the type of disease and recommendation of the Health Department:

4. Work with Facilities to implement necessary and disease specific sanitation protocols, with a special focus on disinfecting those areas where the infected individual may have frequented; e.g., classrooms, laboratories, lounges. Door handles, hand rails, elevators and water fountains/hydration stations are wiped down. All restrooms will be over-stocked with hand sanitizers and paper towels and undergo necessary disease specific cleaning. Hand sanitizers throughout the campus will be checked more frequently.
5. If indicated, Department of Health personnel will offer on-campus education sessions so people can have their questions answered.
6. Send update to the community, when necessary.

Responsible Administrator – Executive Director for Human Resources and Labor Relations

Revised and reaffirmed

- May 2019
- March 2020
- July 2020

Communication – This policy is communicated to the College community in the following documents:

- Human Resources Website
- SharePoint Website