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960 Communicable Diseases

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960.1 Policy

It is the intent of Indiana State University to assure that all reasonable steps will be taken to discourage the spread of communicable diseases within the University community, especially those diseases which may be considered life-threatening. Within the communicable diseases category are a wide variety of infectious illnesses which range from the common cold to the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Such diseases vary greatly in mode and ease of transmission, the seriousness of effects and in the means to prevention and treatment.

960.1.1 Responsibility of University Community. All units of the University have the responsibility to promote sound health practices through educational programs, to assist persons who may have health problems to receive proper attention, and to exercise special care when communicable diseases are suspected of being present.

960.1.2 Special Dangers of Contagion. Individuals who have, or suspect that they have, a communicable disease are encouraged to seek and to follow the best medical advice available. The Student Health Center will observe professional practices of care and confidentiality in regard to patients served and will comply with the reporting requirements of all public health agencies. If there are occasions when special dangers of contagion require unusual actions by any part of the University, such actions will be as a result of recommendations by the Director of the Student Health Center to appropriate officials of the University.

960.1.3 Education and Awareness. The University seeks to discourage the spread of communicable diseases through programs of education and awareness, prevention and early detection, and special care. The privacy, rights and confidentiality of all individuals will be respected, and the University will comply with all federal, state and municipal regulations.

960.2 Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan

The University has developed a program to protect faculty, staff and students who have occupational exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials. This program, the ISU Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan, complies with the requirements of the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard, 29 CFR 1910.1030, the Indiana Administrative Code 410 IAC 1-4 and identifies procedures to eliminate or reduce the risk of contracting a bloodborne disease in the workplace. A copy of the Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan is available in the Environmental Safety Office.

960.2.1 Application. The Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan applies to all employees of Indiana State University, including part-time and temporary staff, who may

as a part of their employment come into contact with blood, infected lab animals, or other potentially infectious material.

960.2.2 Health Care and Laboratory Employees. Health care and laboratory employees whose work may involve the risk of exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials may include, but are not limited to, the following: physicians, nurses, nurse's aides, physician assistants, phlebotomists, medical technologists, therapists, research laboratory personnel, research scientists, and animal laboratory personnel.

960.2.3 Other Employees. Others whose positions may include some occupational exposure tasks include employees in law enforcement, custodial/ housekeeping services, laundry services, maintenance, child care, equipment technicians, transportation service workers, or couriers involved in delivery and transport of potentially infectious materials.

960.2.4 University Precautions. Universal precautions refer to approaches to infection control in which all human blood and certain human body fluids are treated as if known to be infectious for HIV, HBV, HCV or other bloodborne pathogens. Using this assumption when dealing with infectious materials eliminates the need for decision making to determine the extent of actual or potential disease hazards. The approach establishes minimum standards for contamination control that will effectively control bloodborne pathogens if present. Universal precautions shall be observed to prevent contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials. In situations where differentiation between body fluid types is difficult or impossible (i.e., uncontrolled or emergency situations), all body fluids shall be considered potentially infectious.

960.2.5 Additional Information. Additional information is available in the Environmental Safety Office or the Human Resources Office.