

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE  
ATHLETIC TRAINING PROGRAM  
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE POLICY**

As a program in an allied health care profession, transmission of communicable disease is of great concern. In order to address this concern, the policy of USM's Athletic Training Program is as follows:

**ILLNESS**

Athletic Training Students (ATs) should report personal illness that might place those they work with at risk of infection to their supervising preceptor and USM's Athletic Training Clinical Education Coordinator.

An ATs should be examined by a health care professional at USM's Student Health Services if there is any question about the illness.

An ATs that is ill and has communicated this to his/her preceptor prior to the assigned clinical experience should stay home. This will be considered an excused absence and have no effect on the student's final clinical evaluation or grade for a clinical course.

**INJURY and EXPOSURE TO BLOOD AND OTHER BODILY FLUIDS**

During clinical experience assignments, an ATs may be exposed in situations of inherent injury, blood and body fluid exposure. There are standard operating procedures, definitions of accident and exposure, and incident reports that an ATs and preceptor are expected to follow if such an accident occurs.

1. Universal Blood and Body Fluid Precautions as set forth by the Centers for Disease Control are to be adhered to in all clinical courses and students are required to follow USM's [Blood Borne Pathogen Exposure Control Program](#) at all times.

2. Students are required to have the Hepatitis B vaccine series, or have signed the Hepatitis B Declination Form, as follows:

- a. Present documentation of receiving the first two of three required Hepatitis B immunization injections prior to enrolling in SPM 210. If the student chooses not to be Hepatitis B immunized, he or she must read, complete, and sign the form entitled "Hepatitis B Vaccine Declination Assumption of Risk and Release".
- b. Present documentation of receiving the third injection of the Hepatitis B Immunization series prior to enrollment in SPM 370.

3. If a student is exposed to blood or other bodily fluids through a needle stick, cut, splash to the eyes or mouth or has a cutaneous exposure involving large amounts of blood or prolonged contact with blood, and/or if a student sustains a bodily injury, the following actions are to be taken:

1. In the case of blood or other bodily fluid, the student should immediately clean the site (e.g., wash injured skin –needle stick or cut with soap and water; flush splashes to the nose, mouth, or skin with water; irrigating eyes with clean water, saline or sterile irrigant).
2. The student should immediately notify the Preceptor and Clinical Education Coordinator about the incident. The Clinical Education Coordinator should notify the Athletic Training Program Director.

3. In the case of blood or other bodily fluid, the student and Clinical Education Coordinator should contact the source person (per agency policy), if known, to determine his/her willingness to release medical information and/or undergo applicable testing (e.g., hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV antibodies). If the source person is willing to do either or both of the above the student should write down the person's name, phone number, and health care provider's name. The student should notify his/her health care provider that he/she has source person contact information. The student's health care provider may elect to follow-up with the source person and/or his/her health care provider. If the source person can be accessed at a later time the student should go immediately for initial testing, counseling around treatment, and treatment (see step 3).
4. In the case of blood or other bodily fluid, initial testing, counseling around treatment, and treatment may be available at the clinical agency, if applicable. If initial testing, counseling around treatment, and treatment are not available at the clinical agency the student should go immediately to an emergency room. The student should not delay getting initial testing, counseling around treatment, and treatment.
5. After initial testing, counseling around treatment, and treatment in cases of blood or other bodily fluid, and in cases of bodily injury, the Clinical Education Coordinator works with the student to complete the [UMS Incident Report Form](#), the [USM Bloodborne Pathogen Incident Form](#), and any additional required forms for the clinical agency, if applicable.
6. The Clinical Education Coordinator notifies the clinical agency, if applicable, and follows their policies/procedures.
7. After the initial testing, counseling around treatment in the case of blood and bodily fluids, and in cases of bodily injury, the student can elect to follow-up with a health care provider of their choice.
8. In cases of blood and bodily fluid, the involved faculty provides student with CDC hotline (1-800-232-4636) or <http://www.cdc.gov/netinfo.htm> for the most up-to-date information on testing and follow-up. The faculty should strongly encourage the student to call the hotline. Additional resources are identified in note 7 below. The Athletic Training Program Director, Clinical Coordinator, and the USM Director of Environmental Health and Safety will treat student exposure with utmost confidentiality.

Notes:

1. Student and/or his/her health care insurer (as allowed for under benefit package) are responsible for costs associated with testing, treatment and follow-up.
2. USM University Health Services is not able to do testing and follow-up at this time.
3. The USM form is forwarded to the Director of Environmental Health and Safety solely for USM tracking purposes.
4. If unable to reach the Athletic Training Program Director or Clinical Coordinator, notify the Chair of the Department of Exercise, Health and Sport Sciences.
5. If the student is covered by USM's student health insurer, he/she must contact USM University Health Services Director for an automatic referral.
6. The University's health insurance policy regarding confidentiality may be found both in the Claims Appeal Process section of the student brochure or at [www.crossagency.com](http://www.crossagency.com). Medical information is not released to any entity other than the one involved in the process of adjudicating a specific claim. State law prevents any health insurance carrier from discriminating in the acceptance of an applicant if they have been previously insured elsewhere.
7. Hepatitis B virus and hepatitis C virus: 1-888-443-7232 or visit CDC hepatitis website [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/index.htm). The HIV/AIDS Treatment Information Service (1-800-448-0440) can be contacted for information on the clinical treatment of HIV/AIDS. For free copies of printed material on HIV infection and AIDS, please call or write the CDC National Prevention information Network, PO Box 6003, Rockville, MD 20849-6003, 1-800-458-5231. [www.cdcnpi.org](http://www.cdcnpi.org). Additional information about occupational exposures to bloodborne pathogens is available on the CDC's National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health's web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/hai/> or call 1-800-232-4636. The National Clinicians Post Exposure Prophylaxis Hotline (PEpline) is 1-888-448-4911.

I certify that I have read and understand the Communicable Disease Policy.

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Signature of Student

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Date