

**Policy Title:**

**Policy on Implications of infectious disease on medical student educational activities**

**Background:**

The University of New Mexico School of Medicine promotes prevention of infection of students with educational programming and infection exposure and prevention policies. If a medical student discloses his / her status as chronically infected with a blood-borne pathogen - such as HIV, Hepatitis B, or Hepatitis C - the School of Medicine will maintain the student’s confidentiality and support the student in continuing his / her education.

**Policy:**

- The treatment of healthcare providers who have infection with blood borne pathogens is governed by state statute: they are required to self-identify and then have their practice evaluated to see if they engage in exposure-prone practices.
  - Medical students are included in the term “healthcare providers,” however the University of New Mexico School of Medicine does not seek this information from the students.
- If a medical student should develop a communicable disease, the diagnosing health care provider, in addition to providing a treatment plan, should also counsel the infected student on appropriate infection control policies to prevent transmission of infection to patients or to other health care workers.
  - If the student is diagnosed and / or treated at UNM Student Health & Counseling Center, the staff will follow the guidelines in their “Reporting of Communicable Diseases and Conditions of Public Health Significance Policy and Procedures” and this information will \*not\* be reported to the New Mexico Department of Health without the student’s consent.
- If a medical student should disclose their status regarding HIV, Hepatitis C or Hepatitis B seropositivity to a faculty member at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, the information will remain confidential and only essential faculty (the Associate or Assistant Dean of Students and the Director of Wellness) – with the student’s permission – will be notified.
  - These faculty will review the student’s clinical requirements for the remainder of his / her tenure in medical school, counsel the infected student on appropriate infection control policies to prevent transmission of infection to patients or to other health care workers, and when discussing future career plans with the student, will verify he / she knows about the state’s reporting requirements for healthcare providers.

Responsible Office:	Office of Medical Student Affairs
Approving Body:	Curriculum Committee
Origination Date:	7/15/17
Date of Revision:	
Scope:	Medical Students