

Communicable Diseases Policy

University Policy No.: SS9300
Classification: Safety and Security
Approving Authority: Board of Governors
Effective Date: February 2018
Supersedes: April 2004
Last Editorial Change:
Mandated Review: February 2025

PURPOSE

- 1.00 The purpose of the policy is to provide direction to the university community in preparing for and responding to communicable diseases that may threaten the university's purposes and the safety of its employees and students.

DEFINITIONS

- 2.00 For the purposes of this policy:

“communicable disease” means an infectious disease transmissible by an affected individual to others via direct or indirect means.

“university community” includes:

- all current employees and students of the university;
- any person holding a university appointment whether or not that person is an employee;
- post-doctoral fellows;
- separately incorporated organizations operating on campus who voluntarily agree to submit to the processes under this policy;
- organizations and individuals required by contract to comply with university policies;
- members of the Board of Governors;
- anyone residing on campus;
- visitors and guests; and
- anyone using university facilities.

SCOPE

- 3.00 This policy applies to all members of the university community.

POLICY

- 4.00 Responsibility for implementing the policy is delegated by the Board of Governors to the Vice-President Finance and Operations and the Vice-President Academic and Provost, subject to regular due diligence reporting to the Board on statutory requirements and any situation involving significant liability or risk.
- 5.00 The university will provide members of the university community with the best information possible and adopt prudent public health and health care practices.
- 6.00 Individuals who have or suspect they may have a communicable disease are expected

to report their concerns to their health professional and adopt responsible health care practices.

- 7.00 The university will reasonably accommodate individuals affected with communicable diseases.
- 8.00 The academic implications of communicable diseases in individual circumstances will be addressed through existing Senate-approved academic regulations. Senate may approve additional or alternate responses to the academic consequences of communicable diseases, to deal with university-wide implications.
- 9.00 Pursuant to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the university will take all reasonable steps to protect the privacy of individuals who have communicable diseases. In administering this policy, the university will not disclose the identity of any individual who has a communicable disease, except as authorized or required by law. The university may be required to disclose personal information if there is a risk of significant harm to the health or safety of the public or a group of people or if requested by the medical health officer or designate under the *Public Health Act*.
- 10.00 University Health Services will monitor and assess communicable disease outbreaks throughout the world, and prepare their units' protocol against transmission to staff and patients, in accordance with medical health officer consultation and direction.
- 11.00 The university will follow the Critical Issue Response Coordination Protocol to deal with the planning and response to communicable diseases.
- 12.00 The university will follow the medical advice and direction from the appropriate medical authorities (the Regional Medical Health Officer, BC Centre for Disease Control, and Health Canada).
- 13.00 The university will keep informed of the recommendations on travel from Health Canada and educate and inform the university community as needed.
- 14.00 The university will follow any applicable WorkSafeBC requirements.
- 15.00 The university will provide general informational programs to the university community and provide special programs, as required, to campus departments.
- 16.00 University Health Services and Occupational Health, Safety & Environment will establish operational guidelines and clinical protocols as required, and work with the appropriate units in the offices of the Vice-President Academic and Provost, Vice-President Finance and Operations, and Vice-President External Relations to address specific communicable diseases.

AUTHORITIES AND OFFICERS

- 17.00 The following is a list of authorities and officers for this policy:
 - a) Approving Authority: Board of Governors
 - b) Designated Executive Officer: Vice-President Academic and Provost; Vice-President Finance and Operations

- c) Procedural Authority: Vice-President Academic and Provost; Vice-President Finance and Operations
- d) Procedural Officer: Vice-President Academic and Provost; Vice-President Finance and Operations

RELATED POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

[Critical Incident Response Procedures \(SS9115\)](#) **(Under Review)**

[Environmental Health and Safety Policy \(SS9200\)](#)

[Liability Insurance \(FM5300\)](#)

[Protection of Privacy Policy \(GV0235\)](#)

[Responding to the Death of a Student \(AC1215\)](#)

[Risk Management Policy \(GV0225\)](#)

Revised Health and Safety/Risk Management Organizational Structure
Individual unit operating procedures

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

[*Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, RSBC 1996, c 165.*](#)

[*Public Health Act, SBC 2008, c 28.*](#)

[*Health Act Communicable Disease Regulation, BC Reg 4/83.*](#)