

# **MASTER OF ATHLETIC TRAINING PROGRAM**

## Communicable Disease Policy

Communicable diseases result from micro-organisms that can be transmitted from person-to-person, via animals, food and drink, surfaces, and/or air. Vehicles used to transmit disease can include body fluids, contact with infected surfaces, and/or inhaling air from an infected individual. Common communicable diseases include, but are not limited to:

- Ebola
- Enterovirus D68
- Flu
- Hantavirus
- HIV/AIDS
- Measles
- MRSA
- Pertussis
- Rhinopharyngitis
- Sexually Transmitted Disease
- Shigellosis
- Tuberculosis
- West Nile Virus

While you are an MAT student at the University of Houston, there is a possibility that while participating in clinical education you may become ill with a communicable disease (i.e influenza). This communicable disease policy has been developed to identify those instances and to outline appropriate action when they occur. This policy will help ensure the safety of the patient/athlete, personnel of the clinical site and MAT program, and/or MAT student.

During those instances that an MAT student feels that he or she has contracted a communicable disease, the following steps should be initiated to provide assistance with the proper course of action:

1. The MAT student should immediately notify his or her course instructor, preceptor, Clinical Education Coordinator, and MAT Program Director prior to being absent from class or clinical education
2. The MAT student should contact the University of Houston's Health Center or their personal medical professional (e.g. nurse practitioner, physician) for evaluation if uncertain of the severity of the condition
3. If the MAT student is diagnosed with a communicable disease (e.g. influenza), patient care / clinical education should NOT be conducted until either all signs and symptoms resolve or the treating medical professional provides full clearance
  - If the MAT student is running a fever (temperature  $\geq 101.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ), he or she is NOT permitted to attend class or clinical education until the fever has been resolved for a 24 hour period
4. If an MAT student seeks care from a medical professional for a communicable disease, that student must provide written documentation (i.e. clearance) from that medical professional to the MAT Program Director and Clinical Coordinator
5. It is the MAT student's responsibility to effectively communicate with their course instructor, assigned preceptor, Clinical Coordinator, and Program Director regarding an expected return date as well as obtaining necessary information regarding missed coursework. Missed course work

and/or exam make-up will be permitted with appropriate communication with the MAT student's course instructor and/or proper documentation from their medical professional regarding the fever or illness.

Tips for preventing the spread of communicable diseases

- Allow adequate time for recovery from illness
- Frequent handwashing, especially after restroom use, patient care, and sneezing/coughing
- Avoid excessive touching of one's mouth and nose

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Acknowledgment:

***By signing below, I the MAT student agree that I understand and will comply with the standards and expectations outlined in this communicable disease policy.***

MAT student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_