



NOORDA COLLEGE
of OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Policy Name:	Infectious and Environmental Hazards Exposure Policy
Approval Authority:	Dean's Council
Responsible Executive:	Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs
Responsible Office(s):	Dean's Office
Effective:	November 2019
Expires:	January 2024
Last Revised:	September 2021
Next Review Date:	N/A

Infectious and Environmental Hazards Exposure Policy

Policy Statement

At Noorda College of Osteopathic Medicine (Noorda-COM) we understand that your wellbeing is an essential part of your educational success. Noorda-COM's curriculum includes a required wellness component that is a vital part of the student's educational progress. The wellness curriculum is designed with strategies and evaluative mechanisms lead by the Wellness Committee to assure regular upkeep of wellness plans and programs, conduct wellness assessment of the college facilities, execute student health assessments, and set up an environment that supports student wellness. Noorda-COM's Student Health services are committed to promoting your health and wellness so that you can better achieve your educational and personal goals.

Entities Affected by the Policy

Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs
Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs
Chair of Biomedical Sciences
Anatomy Department
Clinical Preceptors
Students

Policy Procedures

Noorda-COM provides diagnostic, preventive and therapeutic health and behavioral services through on-campus facilities in compliance with all HIPAA regulations during the academic week. We provide from all training locations, 24/ 7/ 365 access to urgent care needs through Intermountain Connect Care and behavioral health services through our relationships with Wasatch Mental Health and StudentLinc.

Immunizations

Important Notes Regarding Vaccination Requirements: Clinical experiences are part of the basic curriculum to obtain a degree of Osteopathic Medicine and therefore Noorda-COM does not waive

immunization or student health requirements for religious or personal preferences. Students will not be allowed to participate in any patient care activities until all immunization requirements have been met, including but not limited to:

- Clinical Experiences
- Health Outreach Events
- International Mission Trips
- Clinical Rotations Inability to participate in clinical experiences due to noncompliance with Noorda-COM immunization polices may result in unexcused absences leading to failure of a course, academic probation, failure to progress, delay in graduation or even dismissal from the College.

All current students must log all immunization requirements on the standard AAMC immunization form.

After documenting the required immunizations for matriculation, the following are required of current students each year:

- Tuberculosis Testing
- Influenza immunization

We strongly recommend that all medical students receive a meningococcal conjugate vaccine (at least one dose of Menveo® or Menactra® after the age of 16 and within the previous 5 years); however, students can submit a meningococcal vaccine refusal form to waive this requirement.

Students are required to keep all immunizations current during their time at Noorda-COM.

How to Submit Required Health Information

Submit all required health documents to the following email address: Noorda-COM Student Health Service – studenthealth@noordacom.org

If you have questions about health entrance requirements, contact the Student Health Service at studenthealth@noordacom.org

Health Insurance Information

All Noorda-COM students are required to maintain personal health insurance and current, updated immunizations. Students must submit proof of personal health insurance and immunizations to the Admissions Office before matriculating and to the Department of Clinical Education before beginning first-year early clinical experiences and again before beginning clinical clerkships. All students must report any break in coverage or change in health insurance to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs during their first two (2) years.

COM students must report any break in coverage or change in health insurance to the Department of Clinical Education during the third and fourth years. Students may have insurance through a variety of options including insurance through parents, spouses, or health exchanges. To ensure students have access to a comprehensive plan, Noorda-COM is making available a student health insurance plan for the 2021-2022 school year through HSA Consulting. All students must enroll in the Noorda-COM sponsored health plan or provide proof of other acceptable health coverage. Noorda-COM requires all students to have health insurance and does not waive immunization or student health requirements for religious or personal preferences. Noncompliance with Noorda-COM health and immunization polices may result in unexcused absences leading to failure of a

course, academic probation, failure to progress, delay in graduation or even dismissal from the College.

The purpose of an infection prevention and control program is to prevent the transmission of infections within a healthcare facility. Students can protect themselves and patients by adhering to basic infection prevention and control principles. Standard precaution procedures should be used routinely when caring for patients, regardless of their diagnosis.

Standard Precautions

Standard Precautions is the name of the isolation system used within Hospital, and is used for every patient, regardless of diagnosis. The aim is to minimize risk of exposure to blood or body fluids. To accomplish this, personal protective equipment (PPE) (i.e., gloves, gowns, masks, and goggles) is used for potential contact with body fluids from any patient.

Standard Precautions include these principles:

- Hand Hygiene: Wash hands with soap and water or sanitize with an alcohol-based hand rub before and after each patient contact, and after removing gloves. See Hand Hygiene Policy.
- Gloves: Use when touching any body fluids or non-intact skin.
- Gowns: Wear if splashing or splattering of clothing is likely.
- Masks and goggles: Wear if aerosolization or splattering is likely.
- Needles: Activate sharps safety devices if applicable, then discard uncapped needle/syringe and other sharps in containers provided for this purpose. Use safety products provided.
- Patient Specimens: Consider all specimens, including blood, as bio-hazardous.
- Blood Spills: Clean up with disposable materials (i.e., paper towels or spill kit), clean and disinfect the area. Notify Housekeeping for thorough cleaning.

Droplet Precautions

Droplet Precautions are used when patients have a disease process that is spread by contact with respiratory secretions.

These include:

- Respiratory infections (RSV, Human Metapneumovirus, Parainfluenza, Influenza)
- Neisseria meningitides (meningitis or sepsis)
- Invasive Hemophilus Influenza type B (meningitis, sepsis, epiglottitis)
- Diphtheria
- Pneumonic Plague
- Mumps
- Parvovirus B19
- Rubella

Coronavirus/COVID-19

The SARS-Cov-2 virus in the Coronavirus family is known to cause a severe illness known as COVID-19. All students must perform daily symptom checks for any signs and symptoms of illness. Including fever (temperature check), cough, shortness of breath. Students **MUST** stay home if they are experiencing **ANY** of these symptoms. Students that are ill must notify the Student Affairs Office. OMS 3 and OMS 4 students must additionally notify their Clerkship (Site) Preceptor.

Students who were ill with fever and/or respiratory symptoms will require a note from a healthcare provider prior to returning to call or their rotation.

All students should remain aware of National and State Guidelines from the CDC and <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/> concerning epidemiologic updates, precautions for viral illness (COVID-19), Risk Mitigation, and Exposure responses in the Clinical Learning Environment.

COVID-19 Task Force

The COVID-19 task force meets weekly to review and assure compliance with the most current CDC and regional recommendations. The task force communicates weekly updated guidelines with faculty, staff, and students via email. On campus testing is available under the guidance of the task force.

Contact Isolation

Contact isolation is used when patients have a disease process that is spread by contact with wounds or body fluids.

These include:

- Diarrhea (Rotavirus, Clostridium difficile, E. Coli 0157:H7, Shigella, Salmonella, Hepatitis A, Campylobacter, Yersinia.)
- Open draining wounds, infection or colonization with multi-drug resistant organisms (MDROs) Airborne Precautions Airborne precautions are used when the infection is spread through the air.

Examples of diseases requiring airborne precautions are:

- TB (tuberculosis)
- Measles
- Chickenpox

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Wear personal protective equipment when there is potential for handling or coming in contact with bodily secretions or fluids. PPE should be located in areas where such exposures are likely to occur.

Needle Stick Policy/Exposure to Blood and Body Fluids Policy/Procedure

If a Noorda-COM medical student is exposed to bloodborne pathogens either by direct contact with blood or other body fluids via the eyes, mucous membranes, human bite, or sharps (e.g., needle stick, lancet stick, scalpel cut, etc.) while on clerkship, it is to be handled as an EMERGENCY SITUATION.

In the event of an exposure students are to follow site procedures.

- Clean Immediately wash region with soap and water for 5 minutes. If exposure occurred in the eyes, nose, or mouth, use copious amounts of water to irrigate mucus membranes. Know where stations to irrigate eyes are located.
- Communicate Let the preceptor, DME/DIO, Core Site Coordinator and the Department of Clinical Education know about the exposure ASAP.

Student should ask for the following information:

- Patient information (name, DOB, medical record number, address, phone #) and any prior testing for HIV, Hep B, Hep C, RPR, or risk factors thereof
- If patient is known to be HIV +, obtain info on CD4 count, history/current opportunistic infections, prior/current regimen/ resistance
- Baseline labs for student and patient (HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C)
 - If unable to do lab work, present to the closest ER Chemoprophylaxis If the patient is HIV +, or their HIV status is unknown, begin post exposure prophylaxis with a multidrug regimen within a few hours of the exposure – do not delay in seeking care.

If unable to obtain an Rx for meds from the preceptor, go to the nearest ER for a prescription. Visit <http://nccc.ucsf.edu/clinical-resources/pep-resources/pep-guidelines/> for more information and the current guidelines.

Post Exposure Protocol

- Immediately wash exposed areas with soap and water.
- If splashed in eyes or mouth, flush with large amounts of water.
- It is critical that you are treated within the first two (2) hours after injury.
- Notify supervisor and follow clerkship site exposure protocols.
- If facility is not equipped to handle exposure, contact an Occupational Health Clinic, appropriate site location, or go to the nearest emergency department with your current health insurance information.
- Notify the Department of Clinical Education of any care received.

Counseling Students exposed to a blood borne pathogen will receive counseling and instructions for follow-up from the Department of Clinical Education.

Please contact them within 24 hours. clined@NoordaCOM.org

Definitions

Responsibilities

Policy Violations

Failure to comply can result in disciplinary action up to including dismissal

Interpreting Authority

Dean's Council

Statutory or Regulatory References

Relevant Links

Additional Helpful Numbers
911 Emergency

Policy Adoption Review and Approval

Dean's Council