

ESU ATHLETIC TRAINING PROGRAM

COMMUNICABLE/CONTAGIOUS DISEASES POLICY: GUIDELINES FOR ATHLETIC TRAINING STUDENTS

The following are guidelines for students enrolled in the Undergraduate/Graduate Athletic Training Program at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania. The policy has been drafted in accordance with accreditation standards and is comparable to that required of other Allied Health Programs at the University.

1. All students enrolled in the Athletic Training Program must help and ensure a safe and healthy environment for all student, faculty members, clinical staff and student-athletes/patients by maintaining their health.
2. When an athletic training student becomes ill they should:
 - ❖ Seek medical attention immediately from the University Health Center, local physician, or family doctor,
 - ❖ Inform the treating physician that they are enrolled in an allied health education program and explain the roll that they play in caring for injured/ill physically active individuals,
 - ❖ Discuss the restrictions/precautions that should be taken based on the diagnosis provided,
 - ❖ Contact their Clinical Preceptor, AT Faculty Supervisor and Clinical Education Coordinator to discuss their status,
 - ❖ Follow the prescribed treatment until the treating physician releases them fully for participation in unlimited clinical activities.
 - ❖ Please note: Students are responsible for expenses related to their care, through student and/or personal insurance or by some other means.
3. The AT Program and the clinical site affiliates, may not allow students with communicable diseases or conditions to have patient contact. This restriction may be necessary to protect the health and safety of all patients and staff at these sites. Persons with the following medical conditions will not be allowed patient contact without a medical clearance:
 - a. Active chickenpox, measles, german measles, herpes zoster (shingles), hepatitis A, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, tuberculosis
 - b. Oral herpes with draining lesions
 - c. Group A streptococcal disease (i.e., strep throat) until 24 hours of treatment received
 - d. Diarrhea lasting over three days or accompanied by fever or bloody stools.
 - e. Draining or infected skin lesions
 - f. Conjunctivitis
 - g. Diarrhea and vomiting with fever

If an ill student is unsure whether he/she should participate in patient care in the manner outlined above, the ATS should inquire with the appropriate healthcare personnel as described herein.

4. Athletic training students are to remove themselves from their clinical affiliations and/or classrooms if they believe that their health status endangers those around them. Athletic Training Students will NOT be penalized for clinical time missed due to diagnosed illness. Students will work with their faculty supervisors to address the need to make-up any clinical time/experience lost due to illness.
5. In the event of a prolonged illness, athletic training students should contact the Vice President for Student Affairs and the University Health Center to appropriately document the cause of absence.

POLICY SUMMARY

All students enrolled in the Athletic Training Program must help to ensure the safety and the health of the people they come in contact with on a daily basis. ATS must seek medical attention immediately and discuss the restrictions/precautions that should be imposed due to their illness. The ATS should inform their Clinical Preceptor, faculty supervisor and the Clinical Education Coordinator of their status and discuss plans to address any clinical time lost. The ATS who has been diagnosed with a communicable/contagious disease must have a physician release before resuming their clinical activities.

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This policy is in place to protect you (as the athletic training student), student-athletes and patients with who you have contact. Failure to notify appropriate medical personnel as defined above regarding a known communicable disease will result in disciplinary action which may include removal from the athletic training program.

Students must also complete annual training on the handling of blood-borne pathogens and infectious agents as specified by the Occupational and Safety Health Administration and Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education. Students are also responsible for familiarization of policies used at affiliate clinical sites.

My signature below indicates that I have read the above policy and agree to comply with this policy during my tenure as an athletic training student within the East Stroudsburg University – Athletic Training Program. Since this policy affects the safety of others, failure to sign this document will result in suspension from the clinical aspects of the Athletic Training Program and subsequently removal from the program.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Witness: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____