

# SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

## Policy Manual

**SUBJECT:** Communicable Disease

**NUMBER:** 3.5.1

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### **A. PURPOSE**

To establish protocols and guidelines pertaining to communicable disease(s).

### **B. DEFINITIONS**

- 1. Communicable Disease:** An infectious disease that can be transmitted from one individual to another individual.

Communicable Diseases that may significantly threaten the health and safety of a university population may include, but are not limited to: COVID-19, Hepatitis, Meningococcal disease, Measles, Mononucleosis, Mumps, Rubella, Tuberculosis, and Varicella.

A complete list of reportable diseases in South Dakota is available from the South Dakota Department of Health.

### **C. POLICY**

#### **1. Education and Communication**

The primary response of the institutions under the control of the Regents to communicable disease epidemics or outbreaks must be as follows:

- 1.1. Each institution will develop and maintain a communication plan and outreach efforts once a communicable disease threat has been identified.
- 1.2. Communication plans will address campus recommendations or mandates based on the most current public health information. Where required, emergency notifications for Communicable Disease Outbreaks will be issued.
- 1.3. Educational resources and communications will be made to all impacted students and employees in the institution.
- 1.4. Educational resources will keep pace with new developments and the current state of scientific and public health knowledge concerning the risk, transmission pathways, mitigation measures, and other relevant information.
- 1.5. Each institution will assign responsibility for educational resources and communications plan to an individual who will formulate the programs.

- 1.6. Stakeholders from each institution are encouraged to meet with experts from the South Dakota Department of Health or other public health officials to discuss guidance updates and its application to Institutions on an ongoing basis.

## **2. Student Services**

- 2.1. When institutional health services are provided at an institution, such health services will be familiar with sources for testing at the institution and in the community. In the event counseling is indicated upon diagnosis of an infectious disease, it will be arranged by the diagnosing clinician.
- 2.2. As available, health services will provide regular medical follow-up for persons with a communicable disease diagnosis.
- 2.3. Health services will observe public health reporting requirements to local and public health authorities.
- 2.4. Medical information regarding an individual's communicable disease diagnosis will not be provided to any person, group, agency, insurer, etc., without the consent of the student; however, written permission of the student is not required for public health reporting purposes.

## **3. Institutional Response**

Institutions will follow the guidelines set forth below related to individuals with communicable diseases.

- 3.1. No individual will be unlawfully discriminated against due to a communicable disease diagnosis including admission to an institution or access to services or programs.
- 3.2. In the event an individual receives a diagnosis that requires isolation or quarantine per South Dakota Department of Health or clinician directive, the institution will work with the student to fulfill the directive.
- 3.3. Safety guidelines consistent with public health recommendations will be adopted for the handling of blood and body fluids of all individuals, not just those previously known to have blood borne infections.
- 3.4. Safety guidelines will be adopted for handling blood and bodily fluids in classroom settings in which either may be part of the course work, such as in biology classes or medical technology classes.

## **FORMS / APPENDICES:**

None

## **SOURCE:**

BOR September 1988; BOR December 2022; October 2023 (Clerical).