

Communicable Disease Policy

Because of the seriousness of communicable diseases, and to protect the rights of those afflicted and the safety and welfare of others, Samford University has established a policy for students. Administration of this policy relies upon the initiative of the vice president for student affairs and enrollment management where students are concerned.

Communicable diseases/conditions are those listed as reportable by the State of Alabama Bureau of Disease Control (see list below). The Office of Human Resources and Student Health Services will answer inquiries from students as to which diseases are reportable and will provide other information concerning these diseases. These departments shall not release to anyone any information concerning a student who is or may be afflicted with a communicable disease, except as required by law.

Students who know, or who have reasonable basis for believing that they are or may be infected by a communicable disease, shall immediately report the same to the medical staff at Student Health Services. This information will be treated confidentially, except as otherwise required by law, and may be used by the university to make accommodations for the student's medical and educational needs.

Students infected with communicable diseases shall not automatically be excluded from initial enrollment or otherwise restricted in their access to the university's facilities or services unless, upon being informed that a student has a communicable disease, the university (its decision process coordinated through the vice president for student affairs and enrollment management) determines that exclusion or restriction is necessary to protect the welfare of the infected student or others. In making this determination, Student Health Services may determine that it is necessary to consult with the student's primary care physician or, with the student's knowledge and consent, other appropriate individuals.

Students, who acquire chickenpox while residing on campus, will be required to leave campus until it is determined by their health-care provider or Student Health Services that they are no longer contagious to others.

For students assigned at clinical sites, the MAT recommends students not report to their clinical site if they have signs of a communicable or infectious disease; including, but not limited to skin lesions, respiratory illness, gastrointestinal illness blood and/or body secretions.

Students should notify the assigned preceptor, the MAT program director and the Director of Clinical Education immediately. The preceptor, program director or Director of Clinical Education may require a medical evaluation to determine cause before returning to the clinical setting. In the event a student misses a significant amount or class or clinical experiences due to illness, the MAT program director will decide the students' status; which may result in a grade of an incomplete or additional clinical experience.

Alabama Notifiable Diseases/Conditions

Group A Diseases/Conditions

Report to the county or state health department within 24 hours of diagnosis:

- Anthrax, human
- Botulism
- Cholera
- Diphtheria
- Typhoid Fever
- Hepatitis A
- Listeriosis
- Measles (rubeola)
- Rabies, human and animal
- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome [SARS]
- Trichinosis
- Tuberculosis
- Pertussis
- Yellow Fever
- Outbreaks of any kind
- Poliomyelitis, paralytic
- Cases related to nuclear, biological or chemical terroristic agents
- H. Influenzae, invasive diseases*
- N. meningitis, invasive diseases**
- Cases of potential public health importance***\

*i.e., meningitis, epiglottitis, sepsis, cellulitis, septic arthritis, osteomyelitis, pericarditis and Type B pneumonia

**detection of organism from normally sterile site (e.g., blood and cerebrospinal fluid)

***as determined by the reporting health-care provider

Group B Diseases/Conditions

Report in writing to the county or state health department within seven (7) days of diagnosis:

- Brucellosis
- Campylobacteriosis
- Chancroid†
- Chlamydia trachomatis†
- Cryptosporidiosis
- Dengue fever
- E.coli 0157:H7 (including HUS and TTP)
- Ehrlichiosis
- Encephalitis, viral
- Giardiasis
- Gonorrhoea†

- Granuloma inguinale†
- Hepatitis B, C and other viral
- Histoplasmosis
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- Infection (including asymptomatic other than the expected response infection, ARC and Aids)
- Lead, elevated blood levels (>10 mcg/dl)
- Legionellosis Leprosy
- Leptospirosis
- Lyme Disease
- Lymphogranuloma venereum†
- Malaria
- Mumps
- Psittacosis
- Q Fever
- Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
- Rubella
- Salmonellosis
- Shigellosis
- Syphilis†
- Tetanus
- Toxic shock syndrome
- Tularemia
- Vaccinia virus infection or disease other than the expected response to smallpox vaccination
- Varicella
- Vibriosis
- Yersiniosis

†designated sexually transmitted disease by the State Board of Health

State Health Department Telephone Numbers

- Division of Epidemiology (334) 206-5347; 1-800-338-8374 (24-hour coverage); (1-800-338-8EPI)
- Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control (334) 206-5364; 1-800-344-1153
- Division of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (334) 206-5350
- Division of Tuberculosis Control (334) 206-5330
- Division of Immunization (334) 206-5023
- Bureau of Clinical Laboratories (334) 206-3400 (24-hour coverage)
- <http://www.alabamaadministrativecode.state.al.us/docs/hlth/index.html>