Infectious Disease Plan

Introduction

Infectious diseases are a naturally occurring human and zoological condition, the spread and impact of which, while sometimes concerning, can normally be avoided, controlled or managed toward marginal human impact. The challenge to this is influencing or modifying human behaviors to reduce exposures to the offensive pathogens. This is particularly difficult in a campus environment where dense living conditions, demographic range, international travel and life styles can be conducive to the exposure to and transfer of bodily matter containing viruses, bacteria, or other microorganisms producing communicable illnesses.

Medically based decisions guiding the administration’s response to a specific health threat will reflect local, state, national or global evaluation of the human impact of the disease. The continuum of the university’s response begins with threat monitoring, focuses on health communication emphasizing personal care and includes protective actions intended to safeguard all members of the campus community, wherever they are located, should a health threat become particularly pervasive.

Purpose:

This plan is to serve as a framework for the University’s response to infectious diseases that present a threat to members of the campus community. It will provide general guidance for monitoring, mitigation, communications and responses using the institutions resources and coordinated response with local, state or international agencies when threat management exceeds the institution’s capabilities.

Primary Office:

Student Health Services
Campus Community Support (if EOC is activated)

Secondary/Support Agencies:

University Relations
Reves Center for International Studies
WFD EMS
Sentara
Riverside Hospital
Peninsula Health Department
Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services
Virginia Department of Emergency Management
Virginia Medical Examiner’s Office
Center for Disease Control
World Health Organization
Scope:
This plan is expected to guide the university’s mitigation effort and response to disease outbreaks impacting students and employees on campus, in route to the campus, and abroad engaged in university-affiliated travel. It considers typical and extraordinary health threats such as: Meningococcal Disease, Whooping Cough, Rotavirus, Norovirus, Measles, Mumps, Corona Viruses, Yellow Fever, Malaria, various strains of Influenza or any other known or novel contagious threat which may cause exceptional personal discomfort, have a persisting negative impact on quality of life, or which may produce fatalities.

Policies:

- **W&M Policy for Student Travel to Travel Warning Countries** – Recognizes risks to safety and security of students engaging in university affiliated travel, particularly the risks outlined by the U.S. Department of State when it issues a Travel Warning. Policy establishes the circumstances under which student travel to countries subject to a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is permitted.

- **Code of Virginia 32.1-48.04 et. seq.**, disease control measures, authority of State Commissioner of Health to order detention, quarantine or isolation of infected persons.


Concept of Operations

General:

The Director of the Student Health Center practices general oversight on public health issues concerning the campus community and advises the university’s administration in regard to health communications and protective measures.

Disease surveillance utilizing various methods of detection is conducted at state, national and international levels and serves as a sentinel system providing warning that a disease is spreading.

Most campus health threats will be managed through typical interdepartmental coordination efforts. When extraordinary resources are necessary, the Director of the Student Health Center may request through the Vice Presidents for Student Affairs and Administration that the EOC be activated to an appropriate level providing support for the health threat response or health emergency. **Campus Community Support** will be the lead function for coordination of campus resources when the EOC is activated.

Monitoring:

Student Health Services, Reves Center and WMPD offices will monitor information sources identifying domestic and international health threats to determine if or when
actions may be useful or necessary to protect members of the campus community home and abroad. Staff monitoring these information sources should share information obtained with other offices engaged in monitoring for further evaluation, consultation and general information.

**Health Communications:**

Health Communications are generally informational or instructions from the administration to the staff and students educating or suggesting voluntary, self-protective measures persons may take to reduce their exposure to infections, or to reduce the potential of infecting others. The necessity for issuing notice of a disease infecting all or part of the campus community and providing medically accurate information about the health threat will be determined by the appropriate medical authority. For the campus that authority is the Director of Student Health, or in some cases the State Health Commissioner in coordination with the Director of Student Health. In regard to international travelers that authority may be the Center for Disease Control, the World Health Organization or some entity within the U.S. State Department. University Relations (Public Communications when the EOC is activated) will assist in developing and publishing health information for campus consumption.

Disease Education communications may include, but may not be limited to:
- Description of symptoms
- Risks associated with contracting the disease
- If, when and where vaccination will be available
- If/how the disease may be carried by asymptomatic persons
- Alleviation of fear for contracting the disease or receiving vaccination, as may be appropriate to the situation
- If, when and where public meetings about the disease may be available

Communication of mitigation actions may include, but are not limited to:
- Staying away from campus when ill
- Voluntary isolation in quarters
- Hand washing / cough hygiene
- Not drinking or smoking after one and another
- Refraining from social drinking games.

Voluntary immunization / prophylaxis uptake prior to arrival on campus or departure on university affiliated travel is an ongoing health communication effort supported by Student Health and Reves Center.

**Protective Measures:**

Protective Measures are actions taken or restrictions imposed by the administration to more actively cause reduction in the transmission of pathogens among persons in the campus community. These may involve required education on the health threat, enhancement of procedures or registration requirements, and suspension of activities which are not limited to:
- Alcohol education
- Enhanced environmental hygiene (housekeeping education or housekeeper retraining)
- Immunization / prophylaxis
- Travel restrictions concerning acutely affected locations
- Cancellation of classes / closure of campus residences
- Interventions including iterative symptom monitoring and quarantine

### Responsibilities/Actions:

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<th>Role</th>
<th>^ Action</th>
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| Student Health Services / or Campus Community Support (if EOC is activated)| - Monitor reliable information sources for occurrences of infectious diseases which could impact the campus community;  
- Advise university administration on present and emerging health threats to the campus community;  
- Consult as necessary with Reves Center concerning university affiliated travel issues;  
- Provide personnel, equipment, supplies and other resources to coordinate and implement plans and programs for medical responses;  
- Review emergency plans with associated health care providers;  
- Support University Relations / Public Information with medically-based threat information;  
- Request EOC support as may be necessary;  
- Maintain a roster of key officials for medical / public health support. |
| President / Provost| - Decisions concerning suspension of classes, cancelation of campus activities and closure of campus. |
| Reves Center for International Studies| - Monitor reliable information sources for occurrences of infectious diseases which could impact the campus community;  
- Advise / consult the Director of Student Health on present and emerging health threats to which the campus community may become exposed;  
- Request EOC support through the Office of Student Affairs as may be necessary;  
- Maintain a roster of key officials supporting university affiliated travel activities. |
| University Relations / or Public Communications| - Produce, in coordination with Student Health, health communications messages for use in various media;  
- Monitor social media and report on items related to |
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<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
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<tr>
<td>WFD EMS</td>
<td>• Review emergency plans with associated health care providers;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sentara, Riverside</td>
<td>• Develop and make available disaster specific information and response plans for health care providers;</td>
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<td>• Provide recommendations and instructions regarding health communications and protective measures;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peninsula Health Department</td>
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<td>Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services</td>
<td>• Provide laboratory services</td>
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<td>Virginia Department of Emergency Management</td>
<td>• Develop and make available disaster specific response plans;</td>
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<td>Virginia Medical Examiner's Office</td>
<td>• Coordinate support for remains of victims</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center for Disease Control</td>
<td>• Develop and make available disaster specific information and response plans for health care providers;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Provide recommendations and instructions regarding health communications and protective measures;</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
<td>• Develop and make available disaster specific response plans;</td>
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<td>• Provide instructions and procedures concerning international travel.</td>
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