



Entry to Baccalaureate Practice and Advanced Nursing Practice Divisions Communicable Disease Guideline

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1. Guideline Statement

The aim of these guidelines is to reduce the risk of pathogen transmission between students and patients.

2. Reasons for Guideline

To ensure that students minimize their risk of acquiring an infection during clinical experiences and to protect patients from contracting communicable illnesses from students.

3. Who Should Review This Guideline

All School of Nursing faculty, instructors, students, and staff.

4. Resources and Related Documents:

- [Rutgers School of Nursing Student Technical Standards Policy for Admission and Matriculation](#)
- Rutgers School of Nursing [Information on Disability Services](#) Webpage
- Temporary Conditions [Website](#)
- RBHS Office of Disability Services (ODS): 973-972-5396 or odsrbhs@rbhs.rutgers.edu
- [ODS website](#)
- Information on postexposure prophylaxis can be found on the [CDC website](#)
- Students and faculty need to be familiar with communicable disease prevention, immunization, and health requirements of the clinical agencies where students undertake rotations.

5. Definitions

Infectious/communicable diseases exposure: unprotected contact or encounter with a person with an infectious/communicable disease. The dynamics of the exposure will factor into the level of transmission risk.

6. The Guideline

Infectious/communicable diseases are common in healthcare settings. As such, during clinical rotations, Rutgers School of Nursing (RSON) students may have contact with patients, other students and faculty, and healthcare team members who have communicable bloodborne, airborne, and/or contact-

transmitted infections. This contact may result in the student transmitting or acquiring an infectious disease.

To protect the health and safety of students, as well as that of patients and healthcare team members, the RSON requires:

- The completion of the [clinical clearance process](#) well before starting clinical rotations. Note: A student with a communicable/infectious disease pursuing academic study that requires clinical rotations should be aware that the RSON cannot guarantee placement at affiliate clinical sites for clinical rotations. Students participating in clinical rotations are subject to the requirements and approval of the clinical site. Please see the school's [Student Technical Standards Policy for Admission and Matriculation](#) for more information.
- The completion of occupational infectious disease transmission and prevention training prior to initiating patient care.
- Compliance with the infectious/communicable disease policy and protocols, including post-exposure treatment and follow-up, at all clinical agencies where rotations occur.
- Compliance with the use of [standard precautions](#) in all patient care situations.
- **Students exposed to an infectious disease during a clinical must follow the agency's guidelines to which they are assigned for clinical rotations.** Most clinical contracts between RSON and clinical agencies state that the agency must provide emergency care for students in case of illness or accident. However, the student may be responsible for paying any medical expenses.
- **Any exposure incident that takes place either in a clinical agency or in the simulation lab must also be reported following University procedure.** See the Rutgers [Student or Public Incident Alert form](#).

Guideline key points:

1. All infectious disease exposures need to be evaluated as soon as possible following the clinical site agency's policies.
2. A report must be filed with the clinical agency following the agency's policies
3. A report must be filed with Rutgers University.
4. At the initial post-exposure evaluation, follow-up needs to be arranged based on the type and degree of exposure.