
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Effective Date: March 1, 2024

Responsibility: Vice President Student Services

Amends Policy dated: September 1, 2008

Policy Number: OAP 10

1.0 Scope: All Students, Employees, Volunteers and Visitors (University Community)

2.0 Purpose

To provide direction to the university community in preparing for, responding to, and preventing the spread of communicable diseases that may threaten the university's purposes and the safety of its employees and students.

3.0 Definitions

3.01 Medical Authorities:

- a. *Medical Officer of Health (MOH):* focus is on the health of the population, reports the health status of the population, controls and manages infectious and communicable diseases, gives direction to Environmental Public Health (EPH) service programs, and to chronic disease and injury prevention.
- b. *Alberta Health Services (AHS):* an extensive network of community-based services designed to assist Albertans in maintaining and improving their overall health status.

3.02 Communicable Diseases: An infectious disease transmissible by an affected individual to others via direct or indirect means.

3.03 Public Health Act (PHA): Communicable Diseases Regulations: Under the authority of the Medical Officer of Health strategies include:

- Preventing infection through teaching and prophylaxis (including immunization)
- Limiting the spread of infections by timely investigation and follow-up of notifiable CD incidents and putting protective measures in place
- Providing epidemiologic data for reporting and public health response measures

- Continuous monitoring and surveillance of CDs in the community so they may be found and responded to before people get sick or there is a disease outbreak

3.04 Universal Precautions: In order to promote a safe and healthy lifestyle, Burman University encourages all students, faculty and staff to adopt and implement universal hygienic practices. In the handling of blood or bodily fluids, any student, faculty or staff member will follow universal hygienic precautions to prevent the spread of communicable disease.

4.0 Policy

4.01 The university will provide members of the university community with the best information possible and adopt prudent universal precautions and health care practices as defined in the Public Health Act and recommended by Alberta Health Services.

4.02 Individuals who have or suspect they may have a communicable disease are expected to report their concerns to their health professional and adopt responsible health care practices.

Note: Refer to *Responding to COVID-19 in the Workplace Policy* (HRA 225) for expectations if COVID-19 is suspected.

4.03 The university will reasonably accommodate individuals affected with communicable diseases.

4.04 The academic implications of communicable diseases in individual circumstances will be addressed through existing academic regulations. The Vice President for Academic Administration may approve additional or alternate responses to the academic consequences of communicable diseases, to deal with university-wide implications.

4.05 Pursuant to the Personal Information Privacy Act (PIPA), the university will take all reasonable steps to protect the privacy of individuals who have communicable diseases. In administering this policy, the university will not disclose the identity of any individual who has a communicable disease, except as authorized or required by law. The university may be required to disclose personal information if there is a risk of significant harm to the health or safety of the public or a group of people or if requested by the Medical Officer of Health or designate under the Public Health Act.

4.06 The Risk Management Committee will monitor and assess communicable disease outbreaks throughout the world, and provide for campus protocol and

procedure against transmission to the campus community, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health and Alberta Health Services as outlined in the Emergency Management Policy (OAP 20)

5.0 Related Policies and Documents

[HRA 120 Health and Safety Expectations](#)

[HRA 225 Responding to COVID-19 in the Workplace Policy](#)

[OAP 20 Emergency Management](#)

6.0 Relevant Legislation

[Public Health Act](#)

[Personal Information Protection Act \(PIPA\)](#)

[Communicable Disease Control from Alberta Health Services](#)