

Mid-Atlantic Christian University Student Life Policy #13

SUBJECT: Students and Infectious Disease

DATE: May 2008

REVISED:

REVIEWED: April 2020

NEXT SCHEDULED REVIEW: This policy will be reviewed in February of odd numbered years;
February 2021

APPROVED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES: October 18, 2013

Policy for: Mid-Atlantic Christian University
Procedure for: All employees and students
Authorized by: Vice President for Student Life
Issued by: Board of Trustees

I. Purpose:

- A. The protection of staff, students, and the community is a primary value of Mid-Atlantic Christian University. This policy has been developed to offer screening guidelines, to aid in education, and to help prevent the spread of infectious disease.
- B. These policies are based largely on the guidelines and recommendations published by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The CDC developed these guidelines after consultation with various organizations representing public health officials and educators.

II. Policy

A. Confidentiality

- 1. Persons involved in the education and care of students with infectious diseases must respect the student's dignity by maintaining confidential records. The number of personnel who are aware of the student's condition should be kept at the minimum necessary to assure proper care and supervision of the infected student, while at the same time providing for the safety and good health of other students and teachers in the institution.

2. No information about an infected individual may be released publicly without prior approval from the Office of Student Life.
3. The Vice President for Student Life shall report absenteeism of an infected student to public authorities in accordance with the applicable provisions of state law.
4. There should be a balance between the rights of the student and the right to protection for the community.

B. Admission

1. Each infection case shall be considered on an individual basis. The decision about admitting or continuing to enroll an infected student will be based upon the behavior, neurological development, and the physical condition of the student. The expected type of interaction with others in the school environment and the probability of contagion will likewise be considered in this decision (i.e. housing, college service, community service, and classes.)
2. A student known to be infected shall be admitted to the school subsequent to the approval of the Vice President for Student Life in consultation with the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the student's physician if deemed necessary. If no agreement is reached by the screening committee, the matter should be referred to the President for further consideration and a decision.
3. The infected student is responsible for securing such regular medical evaluations, as determined by the Vice President for Student Life, as to permit a reliable assessment of any change in the student's condition which might affect attendance and participation in school activities. Failure to secure such regular medical evaluations or to authorize the release of the results will jeopardize the student's continued enrollment.
4. A student previously excluded from school may be admitted or readmitted, pursuant to reevaluation under the admission procedures specified above, if there is sufficient improvement to warrant admission.

C. Placement

1. First consideration should be given to placing the infected student in the regular educational setting, consistent with the appropriate precautions needed to avoid infecting others, or becoming infected with other diseases transmitted by fellow students or others connected with the school.

2. If the Vice President for Student Life becomes aware of a student who has an infectious disease or has HIV antibody positive, has symptoms of an AIDS-related complex or has AIDS, he/she will notify the County Health Office or meet required reporting obligations. The following should be taken into consideration:
 - a. Status of the student's overall health;
 - b. Threat of infecting other members of the community;
 - c. Status of the disease;
 - d. Student's cooperativeness with health officials;
 - e. Student's lifestyle;
 - f. Student's concern for others.

D. Exclusions

1. Short-term exclusions may be used when, in the judgment of the screening committee, there is a need for additional medical diagnostic appraisals, or, in the judgment of the Vice President for Student Life there is a situation of such a serious and urgent nature that temporary removal of the infected person from the educational environment is in the best interest of all concerned.
2. More extended exclusions may be necessary when the student, based on the best medical advice available, presents a risk of infection to others, or would himself/herself be subjected to serious risk of infection from others.
3. When either short-term or more extended exclusion is required, school administrators will do everything possible to maintain confidentiality in the entire procedure and to deal with the student and his or her family in a way that exemplifies Christian compassion and concern.
4. Mid-Atlantic Christian University will not screen students for infectious disease or the AIDS virus until required to do so by law or until screening is recommended by the U.S. Public Health Service.

III. Procedures

A. Education

1. MACU will strive to provide appropriate information to faculty/staff and students regarding the nature of infectious disease and its transmission. Information will reflect Christ's teaching regarding care and concern for the ill and the afflicted and will emphasize Christian responsibility for one's own health and for the health of others.

2. Effective educational efforts and the development of a Christian outlook, well in advance of any possible crisis situation, are the best assurance that an actual crisis, if it occurs, will be dealt with rationally and without panic. Infectious disease kits will be placed at designated areas to protect individuals cleaning or dealing with bodily fluids that could spread infectious disease. Employees will be trained to use the infectious disease kits (including rubber gloves, cleanser, and sanitizer).
3. Further information is provided to students in the *MACU Student Handbook*, and *Emergency Response Plan*, with links emailed to them at the beginning of each academic year.

<http://www.macuniversity.edu/student-life/student-services/student-handbook>
<http://www.macuniversity.edu/student-life/student-services/safety-and-security>

4. These policies will be reviewed regularly by the Vice President for Student Life to seek to assure that they are based on the latest and most reliable medical information available regarding management of infectious cases. They may be modified at any time based on new findings and recommendations from medical and health agencies.

IV. Published: Policy Manual, Faculty Handbook, Student Handbook

V. Reason for Revision:

VI. Appendices: None