

## HICCUS INFECTIOUS DISEASE PROTOCOL

The impact of an infectious disease on the campus community can result from an isolated instance to a widespread infection. Occasionally, students, faculty or staff members are diagnosed with an infectious illness that has the potential to spread within the campus community. Due to the varying levels of seriousness and potential impact of infectious diseases, the following procedures are a component of the Houston International College Cardiotech Ultrasound School (HICCUS) Emergency Response Plan.

Control of infectious diseases is not an exact science and each outbreak presents a unique set of challenges. Nevertheless, when faced with an actual outbreak, authorities may be required to institute extraordinary measures to protect public health and safety

### PURPOSE

During episodes involving widespread or the potential for widespread infectious disease, HICCUS will take steps to protect the campus community while fulfilling the primary missions of instruction, research and service.

1. This protocol describes the processes HICCUS and external agencies will engage to prepare, prevent and respond to outbreaks of infectious diseases on campus and in the community. Goals of the protocol are to effectively disseminate information, be prepared to respond to situations involving infectious disease, limit exposure/disease transmission, provide support to treat infected and exposed individuals, and to respond with effective strategies in the event of:

a. The occurrence of an infectious disease at HICCUS that requires intervention from Institution and public health officials.

b. A pandemic infectious disease that affects HICCUS and the surrounding community;

2. In the event of a localized or pandemic infectious disease occurrence, HICCUS will cooperate and coordinate with local, state, and federal officials in response.

Due to the potential scope of a pandemic or infectious disease, normal Institution operations may be altered or interrupted. This protocol may be activated if any student, staff, or faculty member is infected with or potentially exposed to serious infectious diseases. The level of implementation and response will be measured and scaled as appropriate to the specific situation.

3. In the event of an infectious disease that has the potential to affect the campus community the Director or designee will coordinate the Institution's response and determine the departments, offices or personnel to activate and guide them in the implementation of this protocol. Federal, state and local health officials monitor infectious diseases and provide educational materials in order to mitigate the effects of the illness. If confirmed cases of infectious diseases occur among students, faculty, or staff, HICCUS officials will consult with DSHS and local health officials regarding appropriate responses.

4. Outbreaks of infectious diseases are public health concerns. The risk from and response to these outbreaks depends on the characteristics of the disease, including its infection method and rate, the severity of the resulting illness, and the medical treatments or other measures available to control the impact of the sickness.

- a. Widespread occurrence of infectious diseases on campus may result in increased absenteeism of employees and students and limitations placed on services that are normally available. HICCUS will maintain effective methods of communication to update faculty, staff, and students.

#### **Isolated Campus Infectious Disease**

- b. An isolated diagnosis involves an individual or limited number of students, faculty or staff members diagnosed with a serious infectious disease. In all situations regarding a diagnosis involving specific persons, institution personnel are to adhere to federal and state laws relating to confidentiality of individuals and their medical information. Upon learning of a diagnosis, Institution personnel are to inform the Campus Director of the event who will determine the level of response necessary.

#### **DEPARTMENTS AND PERSONNEL ROLES AND FUNCTIONS**

5. In adherence to the section of this protocol, the following actions will be considered during an occurrence of an Isolated Campus Infectious Diseases.

- a. Notification and Treatment. In cases involving a student or limited number of students diagnosed by Health Services, or upon the notification of such diagnosis from a student, DSHS will be notified in accordance to protocols regarding infectious diseases. Any other required notifications will be coordinated by DSHS to include those who may have been exposed.

#### **Campus Operations**

- a. The HICCUS Campus, or sections of the campus, may be subject to isolation or quarantine (self-imposed or directed)
- b. In the case of widespread infection or to prevent further infection, campus operations may be altered to include:
  - Restrict or suspend campus activities of a public nature to minimize risk of further infection.
  - Modification of instructional delivery methods to limit on-campus face-to-face interaction.
  - Suspension of instructional activities.
  - Require only essential personnel to maintain limited operations for a period of time.
  - Upon direction of authorized state or federal officials, the Institution may close for a period of time.
- c. In all confirmed cases of infection, the student must provide supporting medical verification of clearance.

HICCUS complies with all City, County, State and Federal Guidelines regarding Infectious Disease protocol.