
HEALTHCARE WORKERS WITH INFECTIONS

Office of Origin: Department of Occupational Health Services

I. PURPOSE

Students, staff, faculty, volunteers and contracted employees (collectively referred to as Healthcare Workers [HCW]) who are colonized or infected with potential pathogens on skin, under fingernails, in nares, or other areas could be restricted from work to prevent transmission to patients.

II. POLICY

HCWs with acute infections cannot work. HCWs that are colonized with potentially pathogenic organisms may be restricted from work, or from patient care and other duties at the discretion of Occupational Health Services and/or Hospital Epidemiology & Infection Control. Work restrictions shall be enforced in accordance with the [Table of Illness/Infections \(Appendix A\)](#). Infection with a blood-borne pathogen does not warrant exclusion from patient care activities. HCWs infected with blood-borne pathogens may seek confidential information or counseling regarding their professional activities and safe practice through Occupational Health Services and/or the Department of Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control.

III. REFERENCES:

Guidelines for Infection Control in Health Care Personnel, 1998. American Journal of Infection Control 1998;26:289-354.

Revised 9/89, 2/92, 8/92, 12/96, 6/97, 3/98, 7/02, 12/02, 4/04

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