



**Policy Summary Statement re: Students Infected with a Blood-Borne Pathogen
(for student signature)**

All matriculating students are required to sign this statement as a condition of admission

The University of Massachusetts is committed to a policy of non-discrimination and protecting the legal rights and privacy of students infected with blood-borne pathogens while also protecting the health of the public. A student who is infected may attend the University of Massachusetts School of Medicine; however, certain restrictions may be imposed on the scope of the infected student's training. Actual recommendations and advice to the student will depend on current medical findings and standards of practice.

All matriculated UMMS students will have their Hepatitis B immunity status confirmed as part of the School's immunization policy. Although testing for hepatitis C and human immunodeficiency virus is not required for attendance at UMMS, it is the professional responsibility of any student who has risk factors for these diseases to make arrangements for serologic testing.

Students who are aware that they are infected with a blood-borne pathogen [including but not limited to Hepatitis B virus (HBV), Hepatitis C virus (HCV), and Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV)], if not currently under the care of a personal physician, are strongly urged to contact the Student Health Service so that appropriate medical treatment may be instituted or continued.

Students infected with a blood-borne pathogen must avoid circumstances in which they could potentially transmit their infection to others. They are required, therefore, to disclose their infection status to the Assistant Dean for Student Advising in order to arrange any necessary adjustments to their educational program. Such notification is considered a professional responsibility of the student, and failure to disclose blood-borne pathogen infection status will be grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the medical school.

The University of Massachusetts School of Medicine reserves the right to restrict students who may transmit blood-borne pathogens from situations that place others at risk. Reasonable adjustments will be made for any student who has tested positive for a blood-borne pathogen to be able to continue medical education. Restrictions and adjustments will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the UMMS Blood-Borne Pathogen Review Panel. In addition, the Assistant Dean for Student Advising will provide career guidance and elective rotation oversight to all students who have a blood-borne pathogen infection. Every reasonable effort shall be made to maintain confidentiality regarding the blood-borne pathogen status of students. Nevertheless, before an infected student begins a clerkship; directors and supervisors of that clerkship may be informed on a need-to-know-basis of limitations imposed on the student's activities. In the event that an urgent determination is required, the Assistant Dean for Student Advising will issue temporary restrictions.

The full **UMMS Policy regarding Medical Students with Blood Borne Pathogen Infection** contains a list of some of the procedures which infected students may not be allowed to undertake or participate in. Students infected with blood-borne pathogens should be aware that, based on current medical knowledge and practice, they may be restricted from future residency training and specialty practices which require the performance risk-prone procedures.



A student infected with HBV, HCV, or HIV may continue in the MD program as long as he or she is able to carry out the physical and intellectual activities of all students as outlined in the UMMS Technical Standards.

Demonstrated competence on Standard Precautions is required of all students in clinical programs of the University of Massachusetts School of Medicine. Any student who may have exposed others to their blood or bodily fluids in a clinical situation has a professional responsibility to notify the patient's attending physician or supervising faculty member and to comply with the applicable reporting and follow-up policies and protocols of the clinical site where the incident occurred. As professionals concerned with the health of others, it is strongly recommended that students involved in such incidents consent to undergoing diagnostic testing for blood-borne pathogens as defined in the school's policy on "Medical Students with Blood Borne Pathogen Infection."

In addition to the UMMS Policy, students on clinical rotations are also subject to the blood-borne pathogen disease policies for health care workers at those individual host sites.

The complete **UMMS Policy regarding** Medical Students with Blood Borne Pathogen Infection can be found in the UMMS Student Handbook.

I have read and understand the above Policy Statement on Blood-Borne Pathogen Infection

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____ AMCAS number: _____