TITLE: Student Exposure to Infectious and Environmental Hazards Policy

SPONSOR: Office of Student Affairs and Education

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 11, 2020

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to promote the health and safety of all students enrolled in Chicago Medical School. This policy outlines the education provided to students to prevent acquisition of communicable diseases in clinical and other healthcare settings; the procedures to follow after a needle stick, puncture, or other potential biohazard exposure; the procedure for reimbursement of any costs associated with an exposure; and the effects of infectious and environmental disease or disability on medical student learning activities.

CANCELLATION:

Exposure Incidents Policy

SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY:

This policy applies to all Chicago Medical School students.

POLICY STATEMENTS:

A) Education

Students are educated on methods to prevent exposure to infectious and environmental hazards during the first year of medical school.

Education and training, regarding exposure will be updated, at a minimum of, annually throughout medical school

B) Treatment, Reporting, and Reimbursement

All students exposed to a potential biohazard via needle sticks, punctures, or other possible exposure must seek immediate medical attention and follow the RFUMS Policy for Exposure Incidents as listed in the RFUMS Student Handbook

C) Effects of Exposure on Medical Student Learning Activities
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1) CMS complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and prohibits discrimination based on disability. This includes infectious diseases or immunocompromised conditions. Students who may qualify for reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) must register with the Director for Academic and Retention Services in the Division of Student Affairs and Inclusion.

2) No person shall be subject to adverse education actions or removed from educational experiences solely because of a non-task related disability.

3) Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with communicable disease or immunocompromised conditions consistent with the current state of knowledge on transmission of infection.

4) CMS may not require a test for verification of communicable diseases or immunocompromised conditions for the purpose of academic admission or continued matriculation.

5) In the event of an epidemic or other public health emergency, students may be screened using appropriate measures prior to entering campus or clinical sites.

6) CMS shall maintain confidentiality regarding communicable diseases and immunocompromised conditions of its students in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations and in accordance with all policies and procedures of RFUMS.

DEFINITIONS:

1) Biohazard refers to biological substances that pose a threat to the health of living organisms, primarily humans. This can include medical waste or samples of a microorganism, virus, or toxin that can affect human health.

2) Exposure refers to skin, eye, or mucous membrane contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials. “Blood” refers to human blood, blood products, or blood components.

PROCEDURES:

A) Education
   1) During the first term of Phase I, prior to any clinical activity, students are required to complete a series of training modules on the prevention and treatment of exposure to
infectious and environmental hazards. Students are required to repeat this training annually.

2) Education on the prevention and treatment of infectious and environmental hazards, including placing and removing personal protective equipment (PPE), is reinforced during the Clinical Skills course at the end of Phase I. and the M2 Essentials of Clinical Reasoning course.

3) Students are required to attend orientation before each Phase II clinical rotation; this orientation includes site-specific information for prevention and exposure procedures.

B) Treatment, Reporting, and Reimbursement
   All students exposed to a potential biohazard via needle sticks, punctures, or other possible exposure must seek immediate medical attention and follow the RFUMS Policy for Exposure Incidents as listed in the RFUMS Student Handbook

C) Effects of Exposure on Medical Student Learning Activities
   A student with an infectious disease or immunocompromised condition should confidentially notify the ADA Coordinator. If necessary, the ADA Coordinator shall communicate with related faculty regarding the medical student’s absence and to accommodate an alternative educational or clinical activity. They will review and modify educational and/or clinical activities for the student, with every effort to maintain the integrity and equivalency of the student's modified educational experience.

POINTS OF CONTACT:

RFUMS Division of Student Affairs and Inclusion 847-578-3205
Campus Safety 847-578-3288
Student Health at the RFUMS Health Clinics 847-473-4357

REFERENCES AND RELATED POLICIES:

RFUMS Student Handbook, page 75
Exposure Incident Policy and Form
LCME Element 12.8