

## **College of Lake County Dental Hygiene Program Blood Borne Pathogen Policy**

College of Lake County Dental Hygiene Program faculty, staff, and students have the obligation to maintain standards of health care and professionalism that are consistent with the public's expectations of the health professions.

All personnel are ethically obligated to provide patient care with compassion and demonstrate respect for human dignity.

No personnel may ethically refuse to treat a patient solely because the patient is at risk of contracting, or has, an infectious disease such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), or Hepatitis B infection. These patients may not be subjected to discrimination.

Personnel are ethically obligated to respect the rights of privacy and confidentiality of patients with infectious diseases.

College of Lake County will protect the privacy and confidentiality of any personnel who test positive for an infectious disease. Personnel who pose a risk of transmitting an infectious agent must consult with appropriate health care professionals to determine whether continuing to provide professional services represents a material risk to the patient. If a faculty member learns that continuing to provide professional health services represents a material risk to patients that person should so inform the Dean of the Biological and Health Sciences Division. The dean will take steps consistent with the advice of health care professionals and with current federal, state, and/or local guidelines to ensure that such individuals not engage in any professional activity that would create a risk of transmission.

The Dean of the Biological and Health Sciences Division, along with the faculty, has established and enforced written preclinical, clinical, and laboratory protocols to ensure adequate asepsis, infection and hazard control, and hazardous waste disposal. These protocols are consistent with current federal, state, and/or local guidelines, and have been provided to all faculty, students, and support staff. The protocol is complete including the availability and use of gloves, masks, and protective eye wear by faculty, students, and patients in both the preclinical and clinical settings. The protocols are reviewed annually by faculty to insure accuracy and compliance.

The Dean of the Biological and Health Sciences Division requires personnel to abide by current immunization standards set by clinical agencies. College of Lake County requires pre-matriculation and annual testing for tuberculosis of all health profession students. Hepatitis B vaccine and appropriate vaccine follow-up to all employees, such as faculty and staff, will be provided. In accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, all students in Dental Hygiene will:

1. Demonstrate proof of immunity to Hepatitis B, or
2. Be immunized against the Hepatitis B virus as part of their preparation for clinical training.