

INFECTIOUS DISEASE POLICY

The risk of contracting Hepatitis B virus (HBV), Hepatitis C or other infectious diseases are greater than the risk of contracting human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Therefore, recommendations for the control of Hepatitis B & C infections will effectively prevent the spread of AIDS. All such recommendations are therefore incorporated herein.

1. Sharp items (needles, scalpel blades, and other sharp instruments) shall be considered as potentially infective and be handled with extraordinary care to prevent accidental injuries. Proper disposal of sharp items according to Cal/OSHA guidelines shall be followed.
2. Disposable syringes and needles, scalpel blades and other sharp items should be placed in puncture resistant containers located as close as practical to the area in which they were used. To prevent needle stick injuries, needles shall not be recapped, purposely bent, broken, removed from syringes, or otherwise manipulated by hand.
3. When the possibility of exposure to blood or other body fluid exists, routinely recommended universal precautions should be followed. The anticipated exposure may require gloves alone, as in handling items soiled with blood or other body fluids, or may also require gowns, masks and eye coverings when performing procedures. Hands should be washed thoroughly and immediately if they accidentally become contaminated with blood or body fluids.
4. Pregnant Dental Assisting/Hygiene students are not known to be at greater risk of contacting the HBV, HCV or HIV than students who are not pregnant. However, if a student develops infection with HBV, HCV or HIV during pregnancy, an infant has an increased risk of infection through prenatal or perinatal transmission. Because of this risk, pregnant students should be especially familiar with precautions for HBV, HCV and HIV.
5. Dental Assisting/Hygiene students engaged in health care who are infected with the HIV or HBV, HCV and who are not involved in invasive procedures need not be restricted from work unless they have some other illness for which any health care worker would be restricted.
6. For Dental Assisting/Hygiene students engaged in health care who have been diagnosed as HIV positive, there is an increased danger from infection due to disease. Students who are HIV infected are at risk of acquiring or experiencing serious complications of such diseases. Of particular concern is the risk of severe infection following exposure to patients with easily transmitted infectious diseases (e.g. tuberculosis or chicken pox). HIV

infected students will be counseled about potential risk precautions to minimize their risk of exposure to other infectious agents.

7. The Dental Assisting/Hygiene student's physician, in conjunction with the appropriate college official, will determine on an individual basis whether the student who is HIV or HBV positive, with symptoms, can adequately and safely perform patient care.
8. A Dental Assisting/Hygiene student with an infectious disease who cannot control bodily secretions and students who have oozing lesions will not be permitted to participate in health care services. The determination of whether an infected student should be excluded from providing health care shall be made on a case-by-case basis by the student's physician and the appropriate college officials.
9. Dental Assisting/Hygiene students who are exposed to infectious body fluids in the clinical area must report to the supervisor/clinical instructor immediately. The clinic shall be notified and the clinic protocol for such exposure followed. In addition, program directors must be notified as soon as possible to assure proper follow-up in the event of blood borne pathogen exposure.