

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Title: Infectious / Communicable Disease
Policy Number: 04.64.01
Issuing Authority: Office of the President
Responsible Officer: Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer;
Vice President for Student Affairs

Date Created: August 1, 2010
Date Last Amended/Reviewed: November 2022
Date Scheduled for Review: January 2024
Reviewing Offices: Student and Employee Health Services

Scope of Policy & Rationale:

Temple University is committed to protecting its community members and minimizing the impacts of infectious diseases such as pandemic influenza, meningitis, or other health related emergencies. This policy has been created to organize resources in order to ensure the health and safety of the members of the Temple community and to minimize the negative impact of infectious diseases and other health related emergencies. This policy is part of a larger university emergency preparedness plan.

Definitions

Outbreak: the occurrence of disease in excess of what would normally be expected in a defined community, geographical area or season. An outbreak may last for a few days or weeks, or for several years.

Epidemic: occurs when new cases of a certain disease, in a given human population, and during a given period, substantially exceed what is "expected," based on recent experience

Infectious Disease: a clinically evident illness resulting from the presence of pathogenic microbial agents, including pathogenic viruses, pathogenic bacteria, fungi, protozoa, multicellular parasites, and aberrant proteins known as prions.

Pandemic: an epidemic of infectious disease that is spreading through human populations across a large region; for instance, a continent, or even worldwide.

Policy Statement

In the event of a pandemic or other health emergency, it is the university's responsibility to take measures to protect its students, faculty, staff, and their families from potential

exposure to disease. There are four major goals of this policy that apply to all health-related emergency situations:

1. Identify and treat those who are sick;
2. Prevent others from getting sick; and when appropriate,
3. Educate the Temple Community; and
4. Communicate effectively during all phases of the emergency.

Representatives from Emergency Management, the Provost's Office, Student and Employee Health Services, Environmental Health, and Radiation Services (EHRS), Student Affairs (including University Housing and the Dean of Students), Public Safety Services, Human Resources, University Communications, University Counsel, and other stakeholders as appropriate will comprise a task force. This task force will:

1. Receive guidance from the Temple University Health System (TUHS), Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH), the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PDOH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
2. Work together to develop immediate action steps, specific to the health emergency
3. Provide recommendations, as an entity, to the senior officers responsible for this policy.
4. Develop a Concept of Operations / Action Plan specific to the health emergency
5. Develop a university Communications Plan

The decision to call the task force together will be made after discussion between the Director of Student and Employee Health Services, Director of Emergency Management, Dean of Students and University Counsel.

Notes

1. History:

In July 2010, the SARS policy (04.64.11) was reviewed, and it was determined that the specific procedures for SARS would not apply to other infectious/communicable disease plans. Further, in Fall 2009, the university mapped out an emergency preparedness plan for the H1N1 virus. Upon review of these plans and procedures it was recommended that a new policy be created to encompass the critical policy and procedure goals in the event of a health-related emergency.

Last Amended:

Proposed to the Office of the President and approved in December 2015.

November 2022: Updated to reflect current Bylaws and job titles.

Supersedes:

Temple University SARS Policy, 04.64.11

Reviewed By:

2. Cross References/Appendix:

Declaration of a Campus State of Emergency 04.60.11