



Origination 02/2025
Last Approved 05/2026
Effective 05/2026
Last Revised 02/2025
Next Review 05/2027

Owner Sydney Miller:
Student Affairs Coordinator
Area College of Medicine - Student Affairs

RUCOM Communicable Diseases Policy

Purpose

To describe the effects of infectious and/or environmental disease or disability on medical student learning activities.

Related LCME Element

12.8 Student Exposure Policies / Procedures

Scope

All RUCOM Students

Responsible Party

Students, Office of Student Affairs

POLICY

I. Policy Statement

RUCOM's communicable disease policy follows guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control for health care personnel. No RUCOM student with a communicable disease or condition will be permitted to engage in patient contact until such conditions have been resolved as documented by a designated student health provider at Roseman Medical Group in consultation with the student's physician(s). This restriction is necessary to protect the health and safety of patients and staff. Persons

with any of these conditions are prohibited from engaging in patient contact unless they obtain medical clearance: (1) active chickenpox, measles, German measles, herpes zoster (shingles), acute hepatitis, and tuberculosis; (2) oral herpes with draining lesions; (3) group A streptococcal disease (i.e., strep throat) until 24 hours after treatment has been received; (4) draining or infected skin lesions (e.g., Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)). A student who is unsure whether he or she should participate in patient care should consult with his or her personal health provider or with Roseman Medical Group.

Any student who has a communicable disease must obtain written medical clearance from Roseman Medical Group (in consultation with the student's health care provider). The designated student health provider assesses each infected student on a case-by-case basis to determine his or her ability to participate in academic activities or perform the duties required of the clinical rotation. It is the responsibility of the medical student to notify the Office of Student Affairs of any inability to perform clinical work; appropriate documentation from Roseman Medical Group is required. (See also Excused Absence Policy.)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines suggest that medical students with hepatitis B virus (HBV) or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) seropositivity can continue to attend classes and participate in clinical clerkships and preceptorships. Medical students with HBV/HIV seropositivity must undergo periodic physical examinations by their health care providers to obtain written health clearance for participation in clinical activities. Such examination may be required when seeking special accommodations. Medical students are not obligated to answer patient questions related to their own HBV/HIV status, nor must they answer such questions related to other students, other health care personnel, or patients. Serologic testing of medical students for HBV/HIV antibodies is not performed routinely but is required after a documented needle or sharp instrument puncture or mucous membrane exposure to the blood or body fluids of patients, or when medical student-to-patient exposure has occurred.

All Revision Dates

02/2025

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
Curriculum Committee	Karin Esposito: Senior Executive Dean, Academic and Student Affairs	05/2026
COM - Office of Student Affairs	Adrian Jones: Associate Dean for Student Affairs	05/2026
Initial Review	Sydney Miller: Student Affairs Coordinator	03/2026