

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

Policy Number: 111

Categorized: [General Policies](#)

Responsible Office: Vice President of Finance and Administration

Subject: Prevention of the spread of communicable/contagious diseases

Related Policies:

Procedures: [111P](#)

Additional Information: [Emergency Management and Safety](#)

Effective Date: 03/02/2015

Last Reviewed Date: 07/01/2020

1. Scope

The policy applies to all members of the College community, including students and employees, as well as all visitors to the College's campuses and facilities, including contractors, vendors, and guests

2. Policy Statement

Northern Virginia Community College is committed to providing, to the extent reasonably possible, a safe environment for all students and employees (the "College community"). The purpose of this policy is to help prevent the spread of contagious diseases through measures that focus on safety, prevention and education. NOVA will rely on information and guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), the Virginia Department of Health ("VDH") and local public health officials.

This policy is not intended to cover common illnesses, such as colds and viruses, or upper respiratory infections.

Persons who are showing symptoms of, know, or have reason to believe they are infected with a contagious disease should seek expert medical advice and are encouraged to advise local health authorities of a possible public health threat. They must follow the directions of local health authorities in order to prevent the spread of infection and to protect their own health. The Office of Emergency Management and Safety (OEMS) will serve as the points of contact between the health department and the college as it relates to the campuses. OEMS should be made aware immediately of any reported contagious diseases as reported by the health department or others. OEMS will provide guidance and direction as necessary. All public communications as it pertains to Contagious Diseases must be approved by the Vice President of Finance and Administration and the college communications through the Director of Emergency Management and Safety.

3. Definitions

Contagious disease: an infectious disease that is spread from person to person through casual contact or respiratory droplets, which may lead to an epidemic or pandemic and threaten the health of the campus community. These diseases include but are not limited to: tuberculosis (TB), measles or German measles (rubella), certain strains of hepatitis and meningitis, as well as any coronavirus, and certain strains of influenza. Other potentially less serious infectious diseases, such as chicken pox, seasonal flu, and pneumonia will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Epidemic: the occurrence in a community or region of cases of an illness clearly in excess of normal expectancy.

Pandemic: a disease epidemic that has spread across multiple continents or worldwide.

4. Procedures

See [111P](#).

5. Authority

VCCS Policy 6.0.7.1 Contagious Diseases

[Code of Virginia Section 32.1-48.01 et. Sec.](#)

[DHRM Policy 4.52](#) Public Health Emergency Leave