

Infectious Disease Protocol

Students are occasionally diagnosed with an infectious illness that has the potential to spread within the campus community. These diagnoses may come from a private practitioner, medical facility, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) or through the FMU Student Health Service. Due to the varying levels of seriousness infectious diseases may have, the following procedures will be implemented as indicated when a diagnosis is made.

A. Diagnosis of life-threatening contagious disease (examples might include meningitis, tuberculosis, etc.)

1. All activities are coordinated with the appropriate personnel DHEC;
2. Student Health Service personnel will coordinate with DHEC officials to provide the appropriate clinical treatment, testing, educational materials, and preventive measures to decrease the likelihood of further infections;
3. Student Affairs and Housing Office personnel will coordinate communication with students who are potentially impacted by the infection;
4. Student Affairs personnel will coordinate appropriate support for the infected students family;
5. Student Affairs personnel will coordinate with the Provost Office to communicate with the student's faculty members to notify them of the students absence when appropriate;
6. The Provost Office will coordinate any enrollment actions on behalf of the student with the Registrar's Office.
7. The Office of Public and Community Affairs personnel will coordinate a response to news media inquiries or prepare releases to address the situation.

B. Diagnosis of contagious illness with potential for widespread infection (examples might include influenza)

1. Student Health Service personnel will provide the campus community with educational materials and take preventive measures during periods in which infectious diseases are more likely to occur (seasonal flu, wide-spread outbreaks, etc.)
2. When appropriate, Student Health Service personnel will refer students with contagious diseases for further treatment;
3. Student Health Service personnel will provide students infected with a contagious disease with instructions and supplies specific to the illness that will lessen the likelihood of infecting others (self isolation for a specified period of time, hand sanitizer, face masks, cleaning instructions, leaving campus housing during infected period when appropriate, etc);
4. Student Health Service personnel will provide roommates and suitemates with specific instructions to prevent the likelihood of infection when appropriate.
5. Students will be encouraged to communicate with their individual faculty members when diagnosed with an infectious illness that causes absence from class. When an extended absence is required, the student should communicate with their faculty members and consider seeking a medical withdrawal through the Registrar's Office if necessary.