



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER EL PASO

Operating Policy and Procedure

HSCEP OP: 75.11, **Health Surveillance Program for TTUHSC El Paso Institutional Health and Infection Control Program**

PURPOSE: It is the policy of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso (HSCEP OP) to maintain a health program that conforms to the guidelines and recommendations established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and the 25 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §96 – Bloodborne Pathogen Control, §97 – Communicable Diseases, and §99 – Occupational Diseases. This program is directed toward primary prevention, early detection, and diagnosis of exposure-related illnesses. The program targets those who (1) have contact with patients and/or human body fluids/tissues, (2) work in the Laboratory Animal Resource Centers (LARCs), or (3) work with animals or infectious materials in any laboratory.

SCOPE: This program applies to TTUHSC El Paso. Attachments to this policy delineate processes by population (students, volunteers, and LARC staff) addressing the management of tuberculosis (TB), immunizations, and exposure management.

IMPLEMENTATION: The president appoints an institutional health managing director to work with the dean or dean's designee in each school to implement the program.

REVIEW: The associate dean of clinical affairs will review this HSCEP OP and attachments on June 1 of every odd-numbered year.

POLICY/PROCEDURE:

I. Definitions:

- A. **Covered Individuals:** Each attachment to this policy designates a category of covered individual under TTUHSC El Paso's Institutional Health Program.
- B. **Exposure(s):** An event (e.g., needlestick, splash, cut, or puncture) where blood; body fluid; or chemical, radiological, or infectious material/aerosol comes in contact with the eyes, mouth, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin during performance of assigned duties either as an employee or student.
- C. **Institutional Health Program:** Immunizations, TB testing, pre/post-exposure testing and monitoring, and education are arranged, coordinated, or provided by the Occupational Health Department under the direction of the infection control nurse and the director of the ambulatory clinics' Quality Improvement Office and Occupational Health (QI/OH).
- D. **Laboratory Animal Resources Centers:** The campus facilities in which research animals are housed.
- E. **Post-Exposure Management:** Treatment and monitoring initiated upon report of a TTUHSC El Paso-related known or possible exposure to infectious diseases.

- F. **Pre-Exposure Management:** Covered individuals are (1) identified, (2) provided training for primary prevention of disease transmission and exposure to infectious materials, and (3) monitored for immunization compliance.
- G. **Medical Service Fee:** Student health fees paid by all TTUHSC El Paso students for basic health services.
- H. **Volunteer Services/Volunteer Representative:** The office or designee responsible for orienting and tracking all volunteers working on campus and associated off-campus clinics.
- I. **Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (or Bacille Calmette-Guérin, BCG):** A vaccine against TB that is prepared from a strain of the attenuated (weakened) live bovine tuberculosis bacillus.
- J. **Screening and Immunization Fee:** Fees paid by all TTUHSC El Paso students covering the cost of TB screening, annual flu vaccine administration, blood-borne pathogen exposure, immunization validation and record maintenance, and other related costs.
- K. **APIC:** Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
- L. **SHEA:** Society of Healthcare Epidemiology of America
- M. **IDSA:** Infectious Diseases Society of America
- N. **CDC:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

II. Institutional Health Program

- A. **Program Components:**
 - 1. **Tuberculosis Surveillance:** TB surveillance for covered individuals is based on current recommendations of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, CDC Recommendations and Reports (December 30, 2005, 54 (#RR-17):1-147), and Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis in Health-Care Settings.
 - 2. **Immunizations:** Covered individuals must comply with Healthcare Worker Vaccination Recommendations (attached, CDC, 2009) and 25 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 97.64 "Required Vaccinations for Students Enrolled in Health-Related and Veterinary Courses in Institutions of Higher Education." In accordance with section (a), this applies to all "students enrolled in health-related courses which involve direct patient contact in medical or dental care facilities. This includes all medical students, interns, residents, fellows, nursing students and **others** who are being trained in medical schools, hospitals, and health science centers listed in the Texas Higher Education Coordination Board's list of higher education in Texas..., regardless of: number of courses taken, number of hours taken, and classification of student."
 - 3. **Exposure Management:** Institutional management of exposure to (1) blood-borne pathogens, (2) body fluids, and (3) other miscellaneous exposures is based on regulations, guidelines, and recommendations available as of February 2007 from the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), DSHS, and U.S. CDC.

4. **LARC Employee and Animal Handler Program:** Health surveillance guidelines are designed to protect both people and laboratory animals, and are based on the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (NRC 1996) Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories, 5th Edition (2007) and other relevant published information.
5. **Surveillance Activities:** Based on CDC, APIC, SHEA, IDSA, and Texas Administrative Code guidelines, periodic review/rounds are conducted to proactively identify risks and implement process improvements.

B. Identification of Covered Individuals:

1. **All TTUHSC El Paso Students** are covered under the Screening and Immunization Fee.
2. **TTUHSC El Paso employees, clinical faculty, and volunteers (who have patient contact or work directly with animals):** Updated lists of covered individuals will be provided to the OH Department as requested and in a timely manner.
3. **Individuals working with animals through LARC.**

C. Health Records:

1. **Employees and Volunteers:** The OH Department shall maintain a separate health record, including immunizations, TB testing records, declinations, and exposure investigation documentation.
2. **Students:** The OH Department shall receive, validate, and maintain required pre-matriculation immunization documentation. Annual TB testing, influenza, and exposure management documentation will be coordinated and maintained through the Infection Control/Occupational Health Department (IC/OH).

All health records will remain confidential.

D. Education/Training Program:

1. Education on primary prevention, early detection, and management of exposure will be coordinated through the OH Department.

III. Responsibilities:

- A. **Senior Vice President for Research:** Responsible for compliance with this policy in the area of research and for implementing disciplinary action, if necessary, in matters of non-compliance involving personnel working in research laboratories and other non-clinical areas.
- B. **Covered Individuals:** Responsible for reporting any exposure incidents to their immediate supervisors, or as otherwise designated per campus protocol, and for obtaining all immunizations/tests as required under the program.
- C. **Deans or Dean's Designee in Each School:**

1. Responsible for designating an entity or individual at each school for communication with the OH Department to ensure that the program operates in accordance with this policy.
 2. Must require personnel under their supervision to attend scheduled training sessions and keep follow-up appointments as delineated by the OH Department.
 3. Responsible for implementing disciplinary action, if necessary, in matters of non-compliance involving covered individuals under their supervision.
- D. **Director of Volunteer Services:** Responsible for informing all volunteers of OH protocols and ensuring compliance.

IV. Attachments to this policy include:

Attachment A - Students

Attachment B - Employees

Attachment C - Volunteers

Attachment D - LARC Employee and Animal Handlers

Attachment E - Healthcare Personnel Vaccination Recommendations