

# Missouri Southern State University

## Dental Hygiene Department

### Communicable Disease Policy

#### **Communicable Disease – Patient Treatment**

Students in the dental hygiene program will provide treatment to patients after competency has been demonstrated. Faculty will provide direct supervision and consultation to oversee student and patient safety. To fully develop clinical skills, students must treat all scheduled patients. Treatment will be provided to all patients regardless of their race, color, sex, religion, national origin, handicap, or other human diseases or conditions. Dental hygiene personnel will not refuse to treat or discriminate in any way against a patient solely because the patient has an infectious disease or is at risk of contracting an infectious disease. This includes any disease process such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), or hepatitis infections. The one exception to this policy is the patient with active tuberculosis. Those individuals will not be treated in the dental clinic or assigned to clinical procedures until treatment is completed and a clearance is given by the medical doctor responsible for the TB management. In the event that a student and/or employee contracts an infectious disease, it is the intent of the university by means of this policy to strike a balance between the right of a student and/or employee having an infectious disease to an education and/or continued employment and the right of students and university employees to be free from the risk of exposure to an infectious disease which may affect their healthy, safety, and/or welfare.

#### **Hepatitis B Vaccination**

All health care providers should be immunized against the hepatitis B virus as well as childhood diseases. Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver. There are several types but the greatest risk to health care workers is Hepatitis B (HBV). Available since 1982, the Hepatitis B vaccine is considered safe and effective and is recommended for the prevention of HBV infection by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Additionally, the MSSU Dental Hygiene Clinic strictly adheres to and routinely practices the "Standard Precautions" against bloodborne pathogens enforced by OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) and recommended by the CDC.

**I have read, understand and will comply with the Communicable Disease Policy of the Missouri Southern State University Dental Hygiene Department.**

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Applicant Signature

| Date