Subject: Campus Communicable Disease Emergency

I. Policy:
   A. In conjunction with the Public Health Department, and in consultation with infectious disease specialists, the SHS will handle communicable disease outbreaks in a manner to assure timely treatment (and transfer if appropriate) of the diagnosed patient and the protection of susceptible contacts, including preventive treatment as appropriate.
   B. An integral element of the handling of such an event will be appropriate communication with:
      1. Appropriate public health agencies, hospital facilities and medical specialists
      2. SHS staff
      3. Other UD staff
      4. Parents

II. Definitions:
   A. Isolation - separation of a person who has or is suspected of having a contagious disease
   B. Quarantine - the enforced restriction of free movement (of healthy contacts) imposed to prevent the spread of a contagious disease to those who have not been exposed

III. Procedure:
   A. Identification
      1. Student Health Service staff will be kept informed by the Director of any issued alerts from CDC, WHO and state public health agencies including HAN (Health Alert Network) so staff can be appropriately vigilant in the screening of patients
      2. SHS staff will, for all patients, obtain a suitable history (including relevant travel) and complete a physical exam that is appropriate to the patient’s symptoms
         a. Any trends noted by the Lab Coordinator, the Clinic Room Coordinator or practitioners will be reported to the Director
   B. Containment
      1. Symptomatic patients who have been exposed to communicable disease (including during recent travel) will be identified and correct isolation implemented as rapidly as possible even when it is anticipated that the patient will be transferred to the hospital
         a. Isolation will include the use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) by SHS staff
      2. Asymptomatic patients who have been exposed to communicable disease (including during recent travel) will be identified as soon as possible and steps taken to prevent their illness and or the possibility of them causing further spread of the disease (including quarantine if needed)
      3. Patients who phone SHS to report illness and previous exposure to a critical contagious illness (see below) should be advised to call ahead and then proceed directly to the Christiana Emergency Room
      4. Patient should not use public transportation (bus, cab etc.)
      5. University and New Castle County ambulance staffs have been trained in transport of patients suspected to have a communicable disease.
C. Treatment
1. Patients with a critical contagious illness (i.e. Tuberculosis, Bacterial Meningitis, SARS) will be transported from SHS to Christiana Hospital for treatment.
2. Patients with some illnesses may be admitted and treated at SHS (when appropriate isolation cannot be achieved in their campus living situation) or sent home to recover.
   a. Patient should be advised on how to avoid infecting others.
3. Patients admitted at SHS will be transferred to Christiana should their condition deteriorate beyond the scope of the Inpatient unit.
4. Asymptomatic contacts of the patient will be advised/treated appropriately based on the specific illness, after the illness has been verified by the Director (see below).

C1. Communication
1. The treating or on-call physician will notify the Director (designee) when a patient has been transferred to the hospital with a contagious illness or when the SHS has been notified of a student being seen for a contagious illness outside of the SHS.
2. The Director will verify with the treating facility that the health emergency does exist and consult with infectious disease specialists regarding appropriate treatment and precautions for close contacts of the patient.
3. The Director will then implement the notification process as outlined in the Student Crisis Management Response Procedure (Student Life).
   a. If needed, the Director will consult Core Health Crisis Management Team involving other UD officials as well as Delaware State Public Health and hospital specialty consultants (also outlined in the Student Crisis Management Response Procedure).
   b. The Director will keep SHS staff informed with appropriate information so that they can safely respond to the needs and concerns of other patients.
   d. All communication with individuals outside the SHS (parents, other students, faculty) will be only at the direction of the SHS Director.
      i. All media requests for information should be referred to the UD Director of Communications and Marketing.

C11. Cleaning and Disinfection
a. All exposed areas of the facility will be cleaned/disinfected per CDC/infection control guidelines for the specific organism once the patient has been removed from the immediate area and prior to use for another patient.

STUDENT AGREEMENT
As a student of the University of Delaware, I have read and understand the above policy and acknowledge the risk of being exposed to a communicable disease. I understand that I am personally responsible for medical costs and treatment and that the University of Delaware is in no way responsible for these expenses.

Student Signature ________________________________

Student Name (printed) ________________________________

Date ___________________________