Infection Control and Personal Safety Policy

- **Origin Date:** 3/2/2017
- **Last Evaluated:** 6/19/2019
- **Responsible Party:** Program Director
- **Minimum Review Frequency:** Annually
- **Approving Body:** Principal Faculty

**Background and Purpose**
The safety of all students, faculty, staff, and patients is of paramount concern. Supervised clinical practice experiences, by virtue of the nature of these experiences, have the real potential of exposing students to communicable diseases and blood-borne pathogens. The purpose of this policy is to define policies and procedures for exposure to bodily fluids, personal safety and security.

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**Policy Statement**
It is the policy of the FGCU MPAS program to follow the guidelines and recommendations established by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regarding infection control and the use of Standard Universal Precautions.

Before any patient care or clinical skills experiences occur, students will receive training regarding the nature of potential risks and the appropriate Standard Precautions and safety measures needed to minimize risk of potential exposure to blood-borne pathogens and other communicable diseases.
Infection Control Overview

1. When providing patient care, whether actual patients during a supervised clinical practice experience, or simulated on campus, regardless of the real or perceived communicable disease status of the patient, all students should follow Standard Universal Precautions.

2. Wash hands before and after patient contact, according to hospital policy, even if gloves are used. Wear gloves when exposure to blood, body fluids, excretions, or secretions is likely.

3. Use gloves appropriately according to aseptic and/or sterile techniques, and change gloves between patients.

4. Wear gowns/aprons when soiling of clothing with blood or body fluids is likely.

5. Wear masks, face shields, and eye protection when aerosolization of blood or body fluids may occur.


7. Dispose of waste saturated with blood or body fluids in designated red-bag trash containers.

Potential Exposure to Blood-Borne Pathogens and Communicable Diseases

1. A "significant occupational exposure" that might place Health Care Providers at risk for Hepatitis B Virus, Hepatitis C Virus, or HIV infection is defined as: a percutaneous injury (e.g., a needle stick or cut with a sharp object) or contact of mucous membrane or non-intact skin (e.g., exposed skin that is chapped, abraded, or afflicted with dermatitis) with blood, tissue, or other body fluids that are potentially infectious.

2. Body fluids that are potentially infectious, to which Universal Precautions apply according to the CDC, include but are not limited to the following body fluids:
   a. Blood
   b. Semen
   c. Vaginal secretions
   d. Cerebrospinal fluid
   e. Synovial fluid
   f. Pleural fluid
   g. Peritoneal fluid
   h. Pericardial fluid
   i. Amniotic fluid
   j. Laboratory specimens that contain HIV

3. A significant occupational exposure to bodily fluids is considered an urgent medical concern, which requires immediate attention for proper medical management. Do not delay in seeking medical care.

4. It is the responsibility of the student to report sharp injuries, needle sticks, or other potential exposure to blood-borne pathogens via blood or body fluids immediately to the supervisor at the facility where the accident occurs. If the event occurs off campus during a supervised clinical practice experience, the student must also notify the MPAS Program of an exposure incident within 24 hours of the exposure by completing the Non-Employee Incident Report
Form. Time is frequently of the essence in managing blood-borne pathogen exposures. For example, some treatment regimens must be started within two hours of exposure to be maximally effective. In the event of a potential blood-borne pathogen exposure while on clinical rotations, students should immediately take the following steps:

a. The student should immediately notify his/her precepting clinician.

b. Using gloves remove and dispose of all contaminated personal protective equipment (PPE). Wash the exposed area thoroughly with soap and running water. Use non-abrasive, antibacterial soap, if possible. If blood is splashed in the eye or mucous membrane, flush the affected area with running water for at least 15 minutes.

c. The student should obtain the name of the source patient, medical record number, room number, and diagnosis. This information is necessary to assist the medical provider in determining the potential severity of the exposure, and it must be protected in accordance with HIPAA and institutional rules.

d. The student must notify the MPAS Program in the event of an exposure incident within 24 hours of the exposure.

e. The student must complete the Non-Employee Incident Report Form located at http://www2.fgcu.edu/EHS/Files/Nonemployeeincidentrpt2014.pdf.

f. If the exposure occurs during normal business hours, the student should report to Student Health Services (SHS) for testing and for counseling. SHS will provide medical intervention at low cost and/or for insurance coverage. Student will be referred to his/her private physician if extended care is needed.

g. If the exposure occurs outside of business hours, the student should report to the nearest Emergency Department. The student should thereafter follow up with SHS.

h. Many clinical facilities during the second year will begin the post exposure procedure(s) with the student. There is no mandatory requirement for them to do so.

i. Any costs incurred by the student in following this plan are the responsibility of the student. It is up to the student to ascertain costs (if any) in advance of accepting such services.

j. All MPAS students are required to obtain and maintain health insurance. The student has exclusive responsibility for his or her own medical bills.

5. In the event that the student contracts a communicable disease which potentially poses a risk to patients or co-workers (e.g., tuberculosis, varicella), steps will be taken to prevent dissemination in accordance with Student Health, Public Health, and/or CDC protocols. Certain communicable diseases may also be reported to county or state health authorities, as required by law.

Personal Safety and Security

1. Florida Gulf Coast University Police Department

a. The Florida Gulf Coast University Police Department provides safety and security for the campus. The UPD mission is to serve and safeguard all students, faculty, staff and visitors on the campus of Florida Gulf Coast University through the
effective and efficient delivery of law enforcement services. Further information and services offered may be found at the website http://www.fgcu.edu/UPD/.

b. University Police Contact Number:
   i. On-Campus Phone Ext. 1900
   ii. Off-Campus Phone (239) 590-1900
c. EMERGENCY (On-Campus Phone) Dial 9-1-1
d. EMERGENCY (Off-Campus Phone) MEDICAL/FIRE Dial 9-1-1
e. Escort: An escort by UPD staff is available during the evening hours or night-time hours on campus. By calling 590-1900 an officer or Police Service Aide will be sent to your car, housing, or other academic building.

2. Code Blue Poles
   a. These emergency telephones are mounted on 9-foot steel columns, are wheelchair accessible, include instructions in Braille and have a highly visible push button on an illuminated telephone faceplate. A single touch on the push button summons campus officers, allows dispatchers to hear what is going on, pinpoints the exact location of the trouble, and triggers the bright blue police-type strobe light on top of the phone.
   b. Code Blue Poles are located in all parking lots, Student Housing, and in the Academic Core areas. If you experience an emergency, this is a way to call for assistance. When activated, you are immediately connected with the FGCU Police Department dispatcher.

3. Off-campus security
   a. The Director of Clinical Education, or designated faculty, will assess and complete a Clinical Rotation Site Visit Report evaluating the safety and security procedures for each SCPE and clinical affiliate location. The safety and security of the off-campus facility will be examined for the overall safe environment and atmosphere for students.
   b. Students will be required to complete any clinical site-specific safety or security training requirements in preparation for supervised clinical practice rotations.
   c. The preceptor, or other designed official, will orient all MPAS students and faculty to the safety and security procedures of the instructional facility.
      i. Students and faculty at off-campus sites will follow standard security procedures of their respective clinical rotation site.
      ii. SCPE sites on hospital campuses, such as Lee Health and NCH Healthcare, have comprehensive security departments with security officers on duty 24/7.
   d. Students and faculty must be aware of their surroundings at all times. It is important to familiarize yourself with the safety procedures at the clinical site.
   e. Students must familiarize themselves with the methods of contacting (i.e. phone numbers) security departments at each off-campus facility.
i. Security departments may offer services such as escorting to vehicles, assistance with vehicle breakdown, etc.

f. In the event of an emergency, the student or faculty must contact site security officers and/or call 9-1-1 immediately for further assistance.

**Associated ARC-PA Standards**

1. **A1.03g** “The sponsoring institution is responsible for addressing appropriate security and personal safety measures for PA students and faculty in all locations where instruction occurs.”

2. **A3.08** “The program must inform students of written policies addressing student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards before students undertake any educational activities that would place them at risk.”

   **ANNOTATION:** Policies related to infectious and environmental hazards are expected to address methods of prevention; procedures for care and treatment after exposure, including definition of financial responsibility; and the effects of infectious and environmental disease or disability on student learning activities.

**Next Scheduled Review Date:** 5/2020

**Last Modified:** 6/2019

Results of modification:

- 6/2019 – Off-campus security descriptions to be consistent with clinical affiliates.