

# CP 1-9(b): Infectious Disease Control – Students

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COLLEGE POLICY CP 1-9(b)

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REFERENCES: BP 1-9

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Dawson Community College (DCC) will take proactive steps to protect the campus environment in the event of an infectious disease outbreak. It is the goal of the College during any such time period to strive to operate effectively and ensure that all essential services are continuously provided and that students are safe within the campus.

DCC is committed to providing authoritative information about the nature and spread of infectious diseases, including symptoms and signs to watch for, as well as required steps to be taken in the event of an illness or outbreak.

In the event of an infectious disease outbreak, this policy and related procedures replaces and supersedes any other college policies and procedures on the following topics. It is understood that the policies herein are subject to change upon directives from Local, State and Federal agencies.

## PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF INFECTION IN THE CAMPUS

DCC will foster a clean campus environment, including the regular cleaning of objects and areas that are frequently used, such as bathrooms, classrooms, study rooms, activity spaces, door handles and railings. The Executive Cabinet will be designated to monitor and coordinate events around an infectious disease outbreak, as well as to create rules that could be implemented to promote safety through infection control.

We ask all students to cooperate in taking steps to reduce the transmission of infectious disease on campus. The best strategy remains frequent hand washing with warm, soapy water; covering your mouth whenever you sneeze or cough; and discarding used tissues in wastebaskets. We will also maintain alcohol-based hand sanitizers throughout the campus environment and in common areas.

Unless otherwise notified, our normal attendance and leave policies will remain in place. Individuals who believe they may face particular challenges attending classes due to an infectious disease outbreak not related to DCC, should take steps to develop any necessary contingency plans. For example, students might want to arrange for alternative methods for participating in classes or completing course requirements with their faculty members.

### *Travel*

During periods of an infectious disease outbreak, travel may be restricted. Students traveling to or returning from travel to countries that are restricted by federal, state, or local agencies or organizations will be required to notify the Registrar before returning to campus. The student will be required to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for self and/or public health official imposed quarantine. Students should check the College website

regularly for updates to restrictions, which may change, should an infection spread either domestically or internationally.

### *Staying Home When Ill*

Many times, with the best of intentions, students continue attending classes even though they feel ill. During the pendency of an infectious disease outbreak, we encourage students with symptoms of communicable diseases to stay home. They should contact the Associate Dean of Student Services for guidance on how to address their medical condition in relation to their academic responsibilities.

During an infectious disease outbreak, it is critical that students do not attend classes while they are ill and/or experiencing the following symptoms which may include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Currently, the CDC recommends that people with an infectious illness such as the flu remain at home until at least 24 hours after they are symptom free without the use medications.

### *Requests for Medical Information and/or Documentation*

If you are out sick or show symptoms of being ill, it may become necessary to request information from you and/or your health care provider. In general, the Associate Dean of Student Services would request medical information to confirm your need to be absent, to show whether and how an absence relates to the infection, and to know that it is appropriate for you to return to the College campus. As always, we expect and appreciate your cooperation if and when medical information is sought.

### *Confidentiality of Medical Information*

Our policy is to treat any medical information as a confidential medical record. In furtherance of this policy, any disclosure of medical information is limited to counselors and college administrators, first aid and safety personnel, and government officials as required by law.

### SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES FOR CAMPUS INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

In the event of an infectious disease outbreak impacting the DCC community, DCC may issue directives implementing the social distancing guidelines below to minimize the spread of the disease among the staff and students.

During the class day, students will be requested to:

1. Avoid meeting people face-to-face. Students are encouraged to use the telephone, email or instant messaging to conduct business as much as possible. This includes if you have the need to meet with a faculty member in an advising or tutoring capacity.
2. If a face-to-face meeting is unavoidable, minimize the meeting time, be prepared to meet in a larger meeting room and sit at least one yard from each other if possible; avoid person-to-person contact such as shaking hands.
3. Avoid congregating in open areas around campus where people socialize.