WVU Infectious Disease Plan - Draft 1.1

ERP Annex H - Infectious Disease Plan

Introduction

Infectious diseases are a naturally occurring human and zoological condition, the spread and impact of which, while sometimes concerning, can normally be avoided, controlled or managed to reduce the risk of spreading and the impact on our community. The challenge is to influence or change our behaviors to reduce our risk of exposures to pathogens that can cause infectious diseases. Meeting this challenge is especially difficult in our university environment where dense living conditions, demographic range, international travel and life styles can increase the risk of exposure to and transfer of bodily matter containing viruses, bacteria, or other microorganisms producing communicable illnesses.

West Virginia University’s administration will base medical decisions on how to reduce risks and respond to specific health threats that will reflect known best practices from local, county, state, national or global evaluation of the human impact of the disease. The continuum of the university's response begins with threat monitoring, focuses on health communication emphasizing personal care and includes protective actions intended to safeguard all members of the campus community, wherever they are located, should a health threat become particularly pervasive.

As West Virginia University is part of the city of Morgantown and its students, staff and faculty reside throughout the surrounding areas, both the University as well as local, county and state officials must work together monitoring for any emerging illnesses, reducing risks of exposure, as well as control, mitigate, and abate any emerging infections, Working collaboratively is required to bring forth a singular county emergency plan that is functional and represents the highest rate of success.

Purpose:

This plan serves as a framework for the University's response to infectious diseases that present a threat to members of our campus community and surrounding areas. It provides guidance for monitoring, mitigation, communications and responses using the institutions resources and coordinated response with local, state or international agencies when threat management exceeds the institution’s capabilities.

Primary Office of Responsibility:
WVU Medicine via Student Health
University Police Department: Emergency Management Team (if EOC is activated)

Secondary/Support Agencies:
WELLWVU
WVU Student Life Dean of Students
WVU University Relations
WVU Student Life and International Programs
WVU Environment Health and Safety
WVU Department of Human Resources (HRS)
WVU Facilities Management/Residence Life/Greek Life
WVU Transportation
Monongalia County EMS
Local Hospitals
Monongalia County Health Department
Monongalia County Emergency Management
WV Medical Examiner’s Office
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
World Health Organization

Scope:

This plan provides guidelines on the university’s mitigation effort and response to disease outbreaks impacting students and employees on campus, in route to the campus, and abroad engaged in university-affiliated travel. It considers typical and extraordinary health threats such as: Meningococcal Disease, Whooping Cough, Rotavirus, Norovirus, Measles, Mumps, Corona Viruses, Yellow Fever, Malaria, various strains of Influenza or any other known or new contagious threat that may cause severe personal discomfort, have a persisting negative impact on quality of life, or may produce fatalities.

Policies:

- WVU Study and Travel Abroad Programs – Recognizes risks to safety and security of students engaging in university affiliated travel, particularly the risks outlined by the U.S. Department of State when it issues a Travel Warning. The program establishes the circumstances under which student travel to countries subject to a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is permitted.
- WV Code §16-3-2 et. seq., disease control measures, authority of county board of health to order detention, quarantine or isolation of infected persons.
- Monongalia County / WVU Emergency Response Plan – Pandemic Influenza Response – outlines responsibilities and relationship with local bodies and WVU during various phases of a pandemic event.

Concept of Operations

General:
The WVU Medicine via Student Health will have general oversight on public health issues concerning the campus community and advises the university’s administration senior leadership in regard to health communications and protective measures.

Disease surveillance utilizing various methods of detection is conducted at state, national and international levels and serves as a sentinel system providing warning that a disease is spreading.

Most campus health threats will be managed through typical interdepartmental coordination efforts. When extraordinary resources are necessary, WVU Medicine via Student Health may request through the Chief of Police that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) be activated to an appropriate level providing support for the health threat response or health emergency. The University Police take the lead function for coordination of campus resources when the EOC is activated with local agencies.
Diseases or illnesses that originate off campus or expand from campus and impact surrounding cities and or county will require that WVU work in conjunction with officials of those entities to monitor, control, abate, and mitigate those conditions to the best of their ability.

**Monitoring:**

WVU Medicine via Student Health, Student Life, WELLWVU, HRS and the UPD offices will monitor information sources identifying domestic and international health threats to determine if or when actions may be useful or necessary to protect our campus community locally and abroad. Staff monitoring these information sources should share information obtained with other offices engaged in monitoring for further evaluation, consultation and general information.

**Health Communications:**

Health Communications are generally informational or instructions from the administration to the staff and students educating or suggesting voluntary, self-protective measures persons may take to reduce their risk of exposure to infections, or to reduce the potential of infecting others. The necessity for issuing notice of a disease infecting all or part of our campus community and providing medically accurate information about the health threat will be determined by the appropriate medical authority. For the campus that authority is WVU Medicine via Student Health or in some cases the Monongalia County Board of Health in coordination with the Student Health. In regard to international travelers that authority may be the Center for Disease Control, the World Health Organization or some entity within the U.S. State Department. University Relations (Public Communications when the EOC is activated) will assist in developing and publishing health information for campus consumption.

**Disease Education communications may include, but may not be limited to:**

- Description of symptoms
- Risks associated with contracting the disease
- If, when and where vaccination will be available
- If/how the disease may be carried by asymptomatic persons
- Alleviation of fear for contracting the disease or receiving vaccination, as may be appropriate to the situation
- If, when and where public meetings about the disease may be available

Communication of mitigation actions may include, but are not limited to:

- staying away from campus when ill
- voluntary isolation in quarters and or limitations of travel
- hand washing / cough hygiene
- not drinking or smoking after one and another
- refraining from social drinking games.

Voluntary immunization / prophylaxis uptake prior to arrival on campus or departure on university affiliated travel is an ongoing health communication effort supported by WELLWVU and Student Health. Recommendations follow the CDC’s Immunization schedule.
**Protective Measures:**

Protective Measures are actions taken or restrictions imposed by the administration to more actively cause reduction in the transmission of diseases among persons in the campus community. These may involve required education on the health threat, enhancement of procedures or registration requirements, and suspension of activities which are not limited to:

- Alcohol education
- Enhanced environmental hygiene (housekeeping education or housekeeper retraining)
- Immunization / prophylaxis
- Travel restrictions concerning acutely affected locations
- Cancellation of classes / closure of campus residences
- Interventions including iterative symptom monitoring and quarantine

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<tr>
<th>Responsibilities/Actions:</th>
<th>WVU Medicine via Student Health / or UPD (if EOC is activated)</th>
<th>Monitor reliable information sources for occurrences of infectious diseases which could impact the campus community;</th>
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<td>Advise university administration on present and emerging health threats to the campus community;</td>
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<td>Consult as necessary with International Programs concerning university affiliated travel issues;</td>
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<td>Provide personnel, equipment, supplies and other resources to coordinate and implement plans and programs for medical responses;</td>
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<td>Review emergency plans with associated health care providers;</td>
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<td>Support University Relations / Public Information with medically-based threat information;</td>
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<td>Request EOC support as may be necessary;</td>
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<td>Maintain a roster of key officials for medical / public health support.</td>
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<td>Notify Monongalia County Health department of health threats and or infectious disease occurrences.</td>
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<p>| President / Provost | Decisions concerning suspension of classes, cancelation of University activities and closure of campus. |</p>
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<th>Student Life International Programs</th>
<th>Monitor reliable information sources for occurrences of infectious diseases which could impact the campus community;</th>
<th>Advise / consult with the Student Center for Health on present and emerging health threats to which the campus community may become exposed;</th>
<th>Request EOC support through the UPD if necessary;</th>
<th>Maintain a roster of key officials supporting university affiliated travel activities.</th>
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<td>University Relations /or Public Communications</td>
<td>Produce, in coordination with WVU Medicine via Student Health, health communications messages for use in various media; coordinate with county officials regarding release of public information.</td>
<td>Monitor social media and report on items related to public information.</td>
<td>Maintain roster of county and state official affiliated with public information communication and releases.</td>
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<td>University Police Department</td>
<td>Monitor reliable information sources for occurrences of infectious diseases which could impact the campus community;</td>
<td>Advise / consult with the Student Center for Health on present and emerging health threats to which the campus community may become exposed;</td>
<td>Activate MECCA EOC support if necessary;</td>
<td>Maintain a roster of key officials supporting university affiliated travel activities.</td>
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<td>Environment Health and Safety</td>
<td>Monitor reliable information sources for occurrences of infectious diseases which could impact the campus community;</td>
<td>Advise / consult with the Student Center for Health on present and emerging health threats to which the campus community may become exposed;</td>
<td>Provide technical, training and operational support if necessary;</td>
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| Department of Human Resources (HRS) - Employees | □ Monitor reliable information sources for occurrences of infectious diseases which could impact the campus community;  
□ Advise university administration on present and emerging health threats to the campus community;  
□ Consult as necessary with International Programs concerning university affiliated travel issues;  
□ Review emergency plans with associated teams and training;  
□ Support University Relations / Public Information with employee-based threat information;  
□ Maintain a roster of key officials for medical / public health support. |
| Facilities Management/Residence Life | □ Monitor reliable information sources for occurrences of infectious diseases which could impact the campus community;  
□ Advise / consult with the Student Center for Health on present and emerging health threats to which the campus community may become exposed;  
□ Provide support and operations to maintain proper handling of cleaning and disposal of waste, may require contracting specialized services and delivery of meals or special menu considerations and respond to quarantine or isolation orders. Secure training for staff to reduce risks of spreading or contracting diseases.  
□ Maintain a roster of key officials supporting university affiliated travel activities.  
For students living off campus, coordinate with local and county officials where exposure and spread of disease may occur. |
| Transportation | □ Monitor reliable information sources for occurrences of infectious diseases which could impact the campus community;  
□ Advise / consult with the Student Center for Health on present and emerging health threats to which the campus community may become exposed;  
□ Coordinate with local and county officials where exposure and spread of disease may occur. |
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<th>Provide support and operations to maintain proper transports and cleaning of vehicles. Secure training for drivers and support staff to reduce risks of spreading or contracting diseases.</th>
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<td>Maintain a roster of key officials supporting university affiliated travel activities. Contact local and county officials for latest standard operation procedures for disinfection and disposal of infected materials.</td>
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