

**Shawnee State University
Dental Hygiene Program
Bloodborne/Infectious Disease Policy**

The Shawnee State University Dental Hygiene Program is committed to providing a safe environment and to protecting patients, students, faculty, and staff from exposure to bloodborne and infectious diseases. The program is committed to protecting the rights of individuals who may have a bloodborne or infectious disease.

Prevention

Utilizing the guidelines developed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the intent of this prevention policy is to protect students, faculty, and staff who are at risk for potential contact with bloodborne pathogens (HIV, HBV) and infectious diseases.

The CDC strongly recommends the following immunizations for Health-Care Personnel (HCP):

Hepatitis B recombinant vaccine (3 dose schedule)	Mumps live-virus vaccine (MMR)
Measles live virus vaccine (MMR)	Rubella live virus vaccine (MMR)

The full text of the CDC recommendations can be found on their website: cdc.gov/mmwr

Applicants accepted into the dental hygiene program are required to complete or show proof of completion of the recommended immunizations and tuberculosis testing. Documentation shall be provided by the student's physician prior to spring term of the freshman year. Many applicants may have already received these immunizations as infants/children.

*Students may decline to be immunized by signing the department's declination form and an annual waiver form from the Ohio State Dental Board.

Training

All dental hygiene students and clinical faculty are required to attend an annual bloodborne pathogen training session. Students must also successfully complete a standard precautions/infection control competency the first semester. In addition, clinical faculty and students are informed of the risk of bloodborne infectious diseases through the university's Bloodborne Pathogens Policy 5.21, documents in the Dental Hygiene Program Student Manual, Adjunct Faculty Manual, and didactic course lectures.

Patients

The dental hygiene department does not discriminate against patients with a bloodborne infectious disease. Strict adherence to standard precautions is followed by all students, faculty and support staff during all phases of patient treatment. Patients are informed of their rights and responsibilities at the initial and re-care appointments in the dental hygiene clinic. Patients are asked to read the "Dental Hygiene Patient Information" brochure which includes a bill of rights, standards of patient care, and patient responsibilities outlined in the scope of care. Patients are required to sign the consent for treatment form indicating they have received and read the above referenced documents.

Infectious students or faculty and Confidentiality

Students or clinical faculty infected with a bloodborne pathogen such as HIV or HBV and who are directly involved in patient care should be under the care of a qualified physician. The physician should provide guidance on preventing the spread of infection. Individuals must be accountable and act responsibly in the provision of patient care.

Shawnee State University and the dental hygiene department respect the right of confidentiality and will make every effort to maintain an individual's rights. A student will be allowed to continue his/her education provided their medical condition permits and patient care or other individual's health are not jeopardized or at risk. In the event that an individual poses a risk to others, the Dental Hygiene Program Leader and the Dean of the College of Professional Studies will assist the individual in obtaining counseling and advisement regarding their health and education.