



NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

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DEPARTMENT OF DENTAL HYGIENE
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Bloodborne Pathogen Policy

The New York City College of Technology Dental Hygiene Department is dedicated to addressing the concerns and issues related to Bloodborne pathogens. These pathogens include but are not limited to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV). This commitment focuses on the needs of the individual as well as the community at large. The purpose of this policy is to minimize the risk of transmission from an infected healthcare worker or student to a patient. New York State regulations mandate that the licensed health care facility is responsible for ensuring that health care providers and students do not have physical conditions resulting from infection with a Bloodborne pathogen which could potentially interfere with clinical care or create a health risk for patients. The Dental Hygiene Department realizes that this knowledge is being updated and continues to change. The policy will be reviewed annually to maintain currency and changes will be made as appropriate.

Infection Control Procedures: All health care providers, staff, and students are required to follow “Standard Precautions”. This is the practice and procedures set forth in the Dental Hygiene Student Manual (available upon request).

HBV Immunization: Department policy states that all Faculty, staff and students are to be immunized for HBV. The vaccine is available to students free of charge through the health center. However, those faculty, staff and students who decline to take the vaccine are required to sign a declination form.

HIV Testing: Testing of faculty, staff and students for HIV is not required. It is recommended that all Health care providers should be tested voluntarily to know their HIV status.

Obligation to Report: A healthcare worker or student infected with HIV, HBV or HCV or other Bloodborne Pathogen is not required to inform patients.

Confidentiality: All information concerning the health status of a health care worker or student infected by a Bloodborne pathogen shall be disclosed only in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including Article 27-f of the New York State Public Health Law and its regulations concerning HIV and AIDS-related Information.

Enforcement of Practice Limitations or Modifications: Any student or health care provider who engages in unsafe and/or careless clinical practices, which create risks to the health of patients, employees, or students at The New York City College of Technology Department of Dental Hygiene, may be subject to disciplinary action, and the student or health care worker may be suspended immediately from all patient care activities pending a full investigation of the matter.

Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens: Health care workers or students who are exposed to a Bloodborne pathogen in the course of their work The New York City College of Technology Department of Dental Hygiene are expected to follow the procedures set forth in the Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Program. Patients who have been exposed to Bloodborne pathogens while being treated at the clinic shall be referred for counseling and testing. Results from such testing shall be disclosed only in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.