

Section:	Health, Safety and Environment (HS)
Subject:	Communicable Diseases
Legislation:	<i>Communicable Diseases Regulation</i> (AR 238/1985); <i>Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act</i> (RSA 2000 cF-25); <i>Health Information Act</i> (RSA 2000 cH-35); <i>Public Health Act</i> (RSA 2000 cP-37);
Effective:	April 26, 2005
Revision:	November 17, 2006; September 1, 2016 (reformatted); December 7, 2016

APPROVED: _____
President and CEO

POLICY

The policy of the Board of Governors is to ensure that necessary precautions are taken in the case of a communicable disease outbreak at SAIT.

PROCEDURE

DEFINITIONS

- Communicable disease** An illness in humans caused by an organism or micro-organism or its toxic products and is transmitted directly or indirectly from an infected person or animal or the environment.
- Notifiable disease** Any communicable disease listed in Schedule 1 or 2 of Alberta's *Communicable Diseases Regulation* and any communicable disease in epidemic form.
- Outbreak** The perceived or true occurrence of more cases of a communicable disease than expected in a given area or among a specific group of people over a defined period of time.

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SAIT community

SAIT's governors, employees, students, contractors, consultants, agents, and volunteers.

Surveillance

The practice of close medical and other supervision of cases and contacts, as determined by the Government of Alberta's public medical health officials, in order to mitigate or eliminate a communicable disease or to promote prompt recognition of infection or illness with a communicable disease.

GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

1. SAIT is committed to reducing the risk to members of the SAIT community as much as possible by using the best possible public health practices for managing and controlling communicable diseases.
2. SAIT will refer to applicable Alberta Health Services (AHS) publications, such as the Notifiable Disease and Diseases Under Surveillance List, to determine the communicable diseases that can potentially threaten the health of the SAIT community. SAIT will follow the guidance and direction that AHS and applicable Alberta government legislation provides.
3. The SAIT Health Services Clinic will provide diagnosis and care within its scope as a front-line facility and refer cases beyond its scope to facilities in the community.
4. All members of the SAIT community will receive appropriate notification regarding concern or risk as directed by Alberta's *Communicable Diseases Regulation*.
5. A member of the SAIT community who has a communicable disease has a right to privacy and to have the SAIT Health Services Clinic keep that individual's private medical information in the strictest confidence. The Health Services Clinic office will keep such information in its office and will not release it without that individual's written authorization, except as required by provincial legislation.

PROCEDURE

1. In the event of a confirmed outbreak, the Health Services Clinic will contact AHS to obtain the latest recommendations about the management and prevention of the spread of the suspected disease or illness. The Health Services Clinic will request assistance with surveillance and outbreak containment measures, including administration of appropriate vaccines and medications as required.

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2. Once the SAIT Health Services Clinic has been advised of a possible communicable disease outbreak at SAIT, the SAIT Health Services Clinic will notify the director overseeing the SAIT Health Services Clinic, who will in turn notify the applicable vice president.
3. Alberta Health Services, in conjunction with the SAIT Health Services Clinic, will investigate the campus environment for potential sources of the outbreak in order to determine members of the SAIT community who might have been exposed and are potentially at risk.
4. An individual diagnosed as having a communicable disease listed in the Alberta Government's Notifiable Disease and Diseases Under Surveillance List or similar publication must provide or be able to provide a letter from a physician or primary care provider documenting that the individual is medically cleared and is therefore able to return to school or work as of a specified date. A student who is unable to see a family physician may seek attention from the SAIT Health Services Clinic. The student will be required to provide medical information to the Health Services Clinic and will be eligible to receive a clearance note from the staff nurse on duty that the student appears symptom-free and able to attend class.

POLICY/PROCEDURE REFERENCE

HS.3.2 Communicable Diseases policy

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