



WALTER SISULU UNIVERSITY INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

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INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

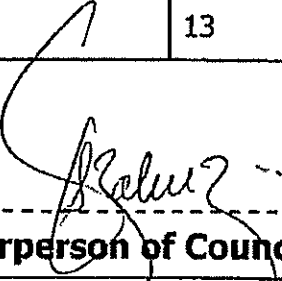
Sponsor Division	Student Development & Support Services
Responsible Department	
Related WSU Policies	
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Student Counselling Services Policy	Rooms Allocation Policy
Student Pregnancy Policy	Campus Health Services Policies
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1. Preamble

Walter Sisulu University (WSU) is a dynamic institution that has grown tremendously over the past few years. In this period the student population has also changed considerably. The university, besides teaching, also has the responsibility of providing further services in the interest of its staff and students such as an effective health service including infection control. Motivated by the rising prevalence of contagious infections and infestations the university has undertaken to become involved in the provision of an Infection Control and Waste Management service in collaboration with other departments such as the local, provincial and national Departments of Health. The university remains sensitive to the needs of its staff and students and is therefore always prepared to become involved in programmes that address infection and infestation control. It is committed to provide, in its best capability, a safe environment for its community.

2. Purpose

The goals of Walter Sisulu University can amongst others be summarized as follows:

- The education of all its staff and students with regards to contagious infections, infestations and situations and all related risks.
- Maintaining the values, goals and aims of the university.
- Protecting the rights and welfare of all staff and students as well as official visitors to its campuses.

The university is therefore committed, although within limits, to giving special attention to the risks related to contagious and/or notifiable infections and infestations (hereafter dangerous infections and infestations) and whatever may pose such risks to the people on its campuses. It will do so according to the stipulations of the Health Act (No 61 of 2003) and will offer assistance in

respect of the protection of the individual who may be at risk. Such assistance can take the form of:

- Counseling
- Referral to specialists in a particular field
- Basic medical care.
- Safe waste disposal.
- Pest control.

3. Scope

The protection against dangerous infections and infestations is applicable to all staff and students of the university as well as official visitors to the institution.

4. Content

Although the university is committed to non-discrimination, it reserves the right to provide protection against dangerous infections and infestations. By law, it is the duty of the university to take prescribed action in the case of such conditions and one of the tasks of the university is to exercise control over the spread thereof. Any person who has such a condition or any person who suspects that they may have such a condition have a duty, based on the welfare of that person and that of other persons on the campuses of the university to prevent the spread of the condition and to obtain medical help. Such a person may be referred to a health care practitioner; specialized clinic or other institution such as may be deemed necessary. It is the duty of the university and such a person to take the necessary precautionary measures to ensure that the dangerous condition diagnosed does not spread to other individuals. The person will receive counseling with regard to:

- Risks to themselves and other persons
- Safety measures to prevent further spreading of the condition/s
- The value of thorough medical examinations and professional advice, as well as career choices and /or limitations if the person's condition is of such a nature that their career may be affected by it.

It will also be ascertained whether the person can continue with their studies or whether the condition will impose limitations on the carrying out of their tasks.

4.1. Mass shifting

Mass shifting may be necessary for certain conditions e.g. hemorrhagic fevers (Ebola, Marburg, Crimean -Congo etc.) but not for HIV infections. Such action will be undertaken by the Department of Health when the condition is regarded as a notifiable disease. Regarding HIV infections, the university reserves the right to review this matter on a regular basis based on legal requirements and limitations.

4.2. Duties of the university in respect of dangerous infections and infestations

The university – as is the case with all other similar institutions – is legally obliged to take prescribed action in the case of certain contagious infections and infestations such as tuberculosis, scabies, meningococcal disease etc. Notifiable diseases as per the Health Act fall in this category.

It is the responsibility of the university, also according to the Health Act No 61, 2003 to prevent the spread of a dangerous infection or infestation and to comply with prescribed rules and regulations. If it has fulfilled these requirements, or if such a condition was not brought to the attention of the university, the institution does not carry any

responsibility for the transmission of any dangerous infection or infestation, the medical costs involved etc.

The responsibility of the university towards staff, students and visitors terminates once a patient with a relevant condition, diagnosed by a health professional has been handed over to their relatives, social services or other relevant structures as may be deemed necessary..

4.3. International students

Students from foreign countries where risks of a contagious infection may have been identified by the WHO, must be asked to present themselves to the Campus Health Services for a general health screening programme. On entry they must be requested to:

- Present themselves for a general medical checkup or specific tests
- Be aware of specific symptoms indicating the possibility of a contagious infection or infestation
- Receive a talk on symptoms of contagious infections and infestations.

4.4. Duty of the individual who works for, studies at or visits the university

It is the duty of such a person to report:

- To the campus health services if the person suspects that they may be a victim of a dangerous infection or infestation
- Suspect cases that they may be aware of, to the Campus Health Service

4.5. Duties and responsibilities of the university's Student Development and Support Services Department

4.5.1 The Student Development and Support Service Department must:

- Do a risk assessment of amongst others: the students coming from a country, where possible health risks were identified, number of students from those countries attending our institution, residential area of possible infected students will be staying, etc.
- Report to the relevant structures of the University and if necessary to the local government health authorities
- Enforce appropriate action as recommended by the health care practitioner as guided by the Occupational Health and Safety Act no 85, 1993.

4.5.2 The university will without delay notify the local authorities of the presence of a notifiable disease on the campus, when there is suspicion that one or more persons on its campuses may be suffering from such a condition, or when someone on one of its campuses has been in contact with a person who is known to have such a condition or suspected of have such a condition.

4.5.3 The university may place certain restrictions on such a person for instance in respect of the handling of food, water, participating in sport etc. This will be carried out in conjunction with the local authorities.

4.5.4 The university reserves the right to prohibit such a person temporarily or permanently from entering or being on its campuses:

- When there is suspicion that he may have such a condition and refuses to report for a medical examination
- The person refuses to use prescribed medicines or fails to use it according to instructions

- The person does not comply with restriction as stipulated in 4.5.3
- Does not act in accordance with the counseling provided to prevent the spreading of the infection or infestation

4.6. Duties of a person who suffers from a contagious infection or infestation

It is the duty of the employee, student as well as the parent or guardian of such a student to notify the university of a person who suffers from a contagious infection or infestation or of someone who is listed in 4.5.4 above. Furthermore, it is the duty of the person who is asked to leave the campus, terminate their studies etc. or who terminates their studies of their own accord, to notify the local authorities of their condition. Individuals will only be allowed to return to residences, lecture halls or work on written recommendations of a health care practitioner.

4.7. Disposal of biohazardous wastes, the treatment of blood spills and the control of infestation and pest

The object is to minimize the chance of exposure to dangerous wastes by providing guidelines for the management of wastes and/or cleaning of blood spills and the control of pests. Safety officers, cleaning supervisors and cleaners must be trained in the suitable handling of such situations.

4.7.1. Biohazardous wastes

Biohazardous wastes, including used syringes and needles, dressings etc., must be disposed of in a safe manner using specially designed biohazardous waste bins. These containers must be replaced on a regular basis by specialized service providers.

4.7.2. Blood spills

- Personnel
- The cleaning of blood spills should be limited to specially trained people
- If an untrained person encounters a spill he/she must limit access to the area and immediately call a person trained to clean the area.

4.7.2.1. Protective clothing

- Strong domestic rubber gloves should be worn. Disposable gloves should not be reused and should be disposed of in a suitable manner (biohazardous wastes).
- If a large amount of blood was spilled and splashing could be expected during the cleaning process, a face shield or goggles must be worn.
- Flat rubber shoes should be worn to protect against slipping.
- Care must be taken when dealing with contaminated broken glass that may be present so as to prevent cutting accidents.

4.7.2.2. Disinfectants

- One part of bleach in 9 parts of water may be used. Specialized areas such as a clinic may use other recommended disinfectants.

4.7.2.3. Cleaning procedure

NB: The following must be reported to a health professional without delay:

- A needle stick injury
- A cut created by contaminated glass
- A wound contaminated with someone else' blood such as may happen during a sports event

Hard surfaces:

Isolate the area by putting up warning signs

Wear protective clothing

Do the following:

- Cover the soiled area with disposable towels
- Spray disinfectants over the disposable towels and then remove them (wearing protective gloves)
- Place the contaminated towels in a plastic disposable waste bag
- Without delay transfer the plastic bag or bags to a suitable biohazardous waste bin

Cleaning of blood spills on carpets:

NB: Isolate the area and wear protective clothing

- Spray with a disinfectant and wipe with a cloth

General:

- Immediately after handling blood spills remove gloves and wash the hands for 10-15 seconds with soap and preferably warm water.
- Be on the alert for sharp objects such as broken glass, syringes, knives, spikes etc.
- Never pick up broken glass with the hands. Use a brush and dustpan, tongs or forceps.
- Any material used during the cleaning process must be disinfected without delay. These items should be saturated with 10% bleach solution. It includes mops, sponges, buckets and any reusable items.
- When rendering first aid always wear gloves before treating a person.
- Always be aware of blood splashes and protect with eye shield when possible.

4.7.3. Pest control

To prevent rodent, pest and parasite infestation or infection, Student Development and Support Service Department and Safety, Health and Environment officer must be informed without delay. In the case of infections as athlete's foot or infestations such scabies, lice etc. this should be brought to the attention of the campus health care service for suitable action to be taken.

- A schedule must be in place and maintained.
- Reports of such infestations should be reported and a record kept of all action taken.
- Food should be stored in the correct manner and in a clean environment. Food must not be stored on floors. Old or stale foods must be disposed of in a suitable manner.
- Garbage should be disposed of in the correct manner and on a daily basis.
- Holes in ceilings, loose tiles, broken windows etc. that may provide access to a storage room, kitchen, bedroom etc. must be reported immediately and the correct action without delay.
- Floors, shelves, walls etc. should be wiped down regularly.
- Showers must be disinfected on a regular basis.
- Rooms should be cleaned and carpets vacuumed regularly.
- Animals should not be kept in bedrooms, areas where food is handled or stored etc.

5. Source documents

- The Health Act, (No 61 of 2003)
- Occupational Health and Safety Act no 85, 1993.
- Nelson Mandela University Infection and infestation control, waste management and blood spills
- National Infection Control Policy

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