

## **Blood-borne Pathogens Statement**

The Montgomery County Community College Dental Hygiene Program is committed to addressing issues related to blood-borne pathogens, such as Human Immunodeficiency (HIV), Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) in order to protect patients, students, faculty and staff, as well as protect the rights of individuals who may have a blood-borne infectious disease.

The MCCC Dental Hygiene Clinic is a safe place to provide and receive dental care. Current and generally accepted epidemiological information supports the conclusion that there is no significant risk of contracting blood-borne diseases through the provision of dental treatment when appropriate infection control procedures are followed. A key element of infection control is the concept of *standard precautions*, introduced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a means to reduce the risk of blood-borne pathogen transmission in healthcare settings. The primary principle behind standard precautions centers on the premise that medical history and examination cannot reliably identify all patients infected with blood-borne pathogens. All patients, therefore, must be regarded as potentially infectious. As such, applying standard precautions requires that infection control procedures are used for every patient.

The Dental Hygiene Program will not discriminate against faculty, staff, students, applicants, or patients based solely on health status. Concerned should be directed to the individual's medical provider.

### **Immunizations**

The risk for exposure to HBV is higher for Dental Health Care Providers (DHCP) than the general population. A comprehensive medical history, physical examination, PPD test, and additional immunizations must also be completed as per Health Sciences Division policies.

### **HIV Testing**

Testing of DHCP and students for HIV is not required by the Dental Hygiene Program. However, health care workers and students who perform exposure-prone procedures on patients are encouraged to be tested voluntarily in order to know their HIV status.

### **Confidentiality**

All information regarding the health status of an individual is confidential and protected by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1994 and the 1996 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

### **Bloodborne Pathogen and Infection Control Training**

The Program complies with all local, state and federal infection control policies, as stipulated by current CDC Guidelines. Written policies and instruction on infection control protocol that minimize the risk of disease transmission are provided throughout the curriculum.

### **Enforcement of Practice Limitations or Modifications**

Any student or DHCP who engages in unsafe and/or careless clinical practices which create risks to the health of patients, employees, or students shall be subject to disciplinary action.

### **Exposure to Blood-borne Pathogens**

Faculty, staff, students, and patients who are exposed to a blood-borne pathogen in the course of their clinical care are directed to follow the College's Occupational Exposure & Communicable Disease Plans.