

PROCEDURE LIT.2.01.05
ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

SCOPE: Faculty, Staff, and Students

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a fatal disease which has become a nationwide public health problem. Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) acknowledges the seriousness of HIV/AIDS. In health-related matters such as this, LIT follows the guidelines of recognized authorities including the National Center for Disease Control, the United States Public Health Service, the Texas Department of Health, and American College of Health Association. Furthermore, LIT shall conform its actions to the Texas Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Act and other law.

There is no current evidence that individuals infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the AIDS Virus, can infect other individuals by casual contact. Accordingly, there is no reason to exclude individuals with the AIDS from social or cultural activities. Therefore, on the basis of current knowledge of the disease, individuals sharing common living space, work or study areas, libraries, classrooms, recreational facilities, and theaters do not represent a problem or public threat to the campus community.

1. Students and employees of LIT who may become infected with the AIDS virus will not be excluded from enrollment or employment or restricted in their access to services or facilities, unless medically based judgments in individual cases establish that exclusion or restriction is necessary to the welfare of the individual or of other members of the college community or of the public.
 - 1.1. When circumstances arise that require review, the President may seek the advice of the Director of Lamar University Health Services, the attending physician, and any other relevant parties.
 - 1.2. An opportunity will be provided for any person involved to discuss his or her circumstances.
2. In the event of public inquiry concerning LIT policy, programs, problems, or statistics related to AIDS on campus, the Director of Communications and Marketing will serve as the official spokesperson for LIT and may enlist the cooperation of the Lamar University Student Health Center as necessary to prepare an appropriate response.
 - 2.1. All inquiries from the press, elected public officials, or the public in general will be referred to the spokesperson.
 - 2.2. The medical records of individuals shall remain confidential, but public information shall be disclosed upon request in accordance with the Texas Public Information Act, the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, and the Texas Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Act. General information and national statistics considered public knowledge are not subject to restriction.

3. In the event an individual is identified with AIDS, AIDS Related Complex (ARC), or a positive test for the HIV antibody, appropriate existing resources for emotional, educational, social, and medical support will be made available to all concerned individuals.
4. Persons who know, or have reasonable basis for believing, that they are infected with the AIDS virus are expected to seek expert advice about their health circumstances and are obligated, ethically and legally, to conduct themselves responsibly in accordance with that knowledge for the protection of other members of the college community and others they may come in contact with in the course of college activities.
5. Lamar Institute of Technology shall carefully observe the safety guidelines established by the U.S. Public Health Services for the handling of blood and other body fluids and secretions in institutional contexts in which such fluids or secretions may be encountered (e.g., teaching and experimental laboratories).
6. Lamar Institute of Technology shall make available the educational pamphlet on HIV Infection developed by the Texas Department of State Health Services and shall include a statement in the student handbook that the pamphlet is available from the institution.

Related Policies: LIT.2.01

Relevant Forms/Documents: "What You Should Know About HIV" Pamphlet

Relevant TSUS Policies/Forms/Documents:

Relevant Statutes: Texas Education Code, Chapter 51. Provisions Generally Applicable to Higher Education; Sec. 51.919. HIV and AIDS Policy; Information Dissemination

Relevant SACSOC Standards:

Document History:

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Reviewed:

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