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| Higher Education University | Wingate University |
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Contents

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|---|---|
| Purpose | 1 |
| Procedure | 2 |
| Recognizing and responding to signs and symptoms of illness | 2 |
| Determining Exclusion from Campus Based Activities due to Illness | 3 |
| Reportable Diseases and Disease Outbreaks | 5 |
| References/Rules | 6 |
| Communication | 7 |
| Acknowledgement Form | 8 |

Purpose

To protect all students, faculty, staff and their families from diseases that can spread among people through contact with contaminated surfaces, bodily fluids, or through the air.

We commit to:

- identifying and responding to individuals who show signs and symptoms of illness while on-campus at Wingate University using:
 - North Carolina rules and laws related to communicable disease
 - evidence-informed resources and tools such as:
 - Communicable Disease Toolkit (NC Resource Center)
 - Signs and Symptoms Chart (American Academy of Pediatrics)
 - guidance from state and local health authorities and health care professionals to respond to communicable diseases and outbreaks
- minimizing unnecessary exclusion from education and on-campus based activity
- communicating exposure to possible communicable diseases to students, faculty, staff and families, while protecting the privacy of the individual who is sick.

We expect **ALL** individuals At Wingate University to:

- stay home and away from others when sick
- consider masking, cover cough and sneezes and utilize good hand washing techniques
- visit a health care professional, when appropriate, to help determine whether signs and symptoms are due to a communicable disease
- notify the Health Center of a diagnosed communicable disease or symptoms of communicable disease
- follow exclusion guidance from their health care professional, the Health Center and/or the local health department

Wingate University Illness and Communicable Disease Procedure & Protocol: *Measles*

Recognizing and responding to signs and symptoms of illness: Measles

Daily Health Checks

- observing themselves for signs and symptoms of illness that are common with Measles:
 - Fever (> 101F or 38C)
 - Rash (typically starting on the face, hairline and behind the ears and spreads down the body)
 - Cough
 - Runny Nose
 - Red, Watering Eyes
- understanding when an individual has been directly exposed to a communicable disease

Symptoms of *Measles* can occur 7-21 days after contact with the virus so it is important to continue to monitor for these symptoms

All Students, Faculty, & Staff share this individualized responsibility

When an individual becomes sick or has an exposure to a communicable disease

The first step is staying “home” (which can be in their Residence Hall) and away from others when experiencing signs and symptoms of illness.

Students should also start to mask and cover their coughs and sneezes and utilize good hand-washing techniques

- Students should notify: The **Health Center** immediately, in addition to:

Their teachers, coaches, work supervisors and or managers

- Faculty & Staff members should notify: The **Health Center** immediately, in addition to:

Their direct supervisors and or managers

Next, the individual should:

- Schedule and complete a visit with the **Health Center** or a healthcare provider of the individual’s choice
- Begin masking if not already done so. (Masks are available at the University Health Center)
- Please wear a mask to the University Health Center or any place providing healthcare

On Campus Health Care can be provided at the University Health Center

Off Campus Care can be found at Atrium Urgent Care-Monroe, Atrium Monroe Hospital within 5 minutes of campus

Defining “Exposure” to Illness and Communicable Disease: *Measles*

- **Exposure:** being around an individual or individuals who are presumed or diagnosed with an illness
 - Spending more than 15 minutes around said individuals
 - Occupying the same space, within 2 hours, as an infected individual
 - Being within 6 feet or closer to said individuals

- Engaging in activities where droplets can be picked up: singing, shouting, coughing, kissing
- If the person was showing signs of illness when you were with them or diagnosed as ill at the time

An individual's exposure to an illness or communicable disease could be "High Risk" if'

- **An individual is unvaccinated**
- **An individual is pregnant, and or having a child less than 12 months of age**
- **An Individual is immunocompromised**

Wingate University Health Center can provide medical evaluations by a Nurse Practitioner who will consult with appropriate sources, such as the local health department, to determine whether the student, faculty or staff will be excluded or reassigned to duties that prevent the spread of the illness.

Health Center Providers will also determine if any higher-level evaluations, i.e. Urgent Care or Emergency Department referral is needed

Testing

Students, Faculty & Staff that are evaluated by a healthcare provider at the University Health Center and determined to need PCR testing for Measles will be referred to the **Union County Health Department**

- Union County Health Department
 - 2330 Concord Hwy Monroe, NC

Students who need transportation can be accommodated by Campus Safety

Any student who is being transferred will be required to wear an N-95 facemask. Any person assisting with the transport of an individual suspected of having Measles will be required to wear an N-95 facemask, as well.

How to Prevent Measles & Wingate University Vaccination Requirements

According to Wingate University and the state of North Carolina students are required to receive MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) vaccination.

At present, vaccination is the most successful way to prevent contraction of Measles and those who are vaccinated are at lowest risk to contract Measles

- Vaccination is about 93 – 97% effective in most individuals

Determining Exclusion of Campus Based Activity due to Illness - Measles

The Health Center will communicate with the individual (student, faculty, staff) about any campus-based exclusion. This decision will be based on guidance from this policy and one or more of the following sources: the evaluating healthcare provider, the Communicable Disease and Exclusion Chart, and/or the local health department (i.e., for reportable diseases or outbreaks of any disease). For some diseases, the local health department will have the final authority to decide when an individual may return to their normal activities and work.

To clarify: Campus based activities include in-person classes or labs, work/employment on campus, dining in the dining halls, athletic practices and/or games/meets/matches, group

gatherings at the university (clubs, club sports, associations, etc.), and/or residing in on-campus residential buildings

Required exclusion in regards to Communicable Disease: Measles

The determination to exclude an individual from campus-based activity will begin after an evaluation by a health care provider.

There are two ways that an individual will be considered for exclusion:

1. The individual is exposure to, symptomatic and or suspected of having Measles
2. The individual is unvaccinated for Measles

Individual is Suspected of having Measles:

Isolation will begin as follows:

- The individual should immediately begin masking with an N-95 mask
- Students, Faculty and Staff are immediately excluded from campus-based activity (*see above for definition of "campus-based activity"*).
 - Students who live within in the state of North Carolina or a state within 100 miles of Wingate University will be required to go home for isolation
- If student lives on campus cannot go back home, they will be assigned to a designated isolation space.
 - Faculty, Staff and Commuters are expected to stay at home.
 - Students will need to bring all necessary supplies: bedding, towels, computer, chargers etc.
- Students will have meals delivered to the designated isolation space by individuals who are also utilizing an N-95 mask (masks can be obtained in the University Health Center).
- **The isolation/quarantine period is 21 days.**
- Students will stay in Isolation until test results are obtained by the Health Center & Residential Living and the 21-day isolation/quarantine period has concluded.

Individual Is Identified as a High-Risk, Exposed Contact to Measles:

Isolation will begin as follows:

- Beginning immediately post-exposure the individual will be excluded from campus-based activity, staying home and away from others, while monitoring for signs and symptoms of Measles
 - Masking with an N-95 mask is recommended
 - Faculty & Staff will isolate at home
 - Students who are "High Risk" (unvaccinated, immunocompromised) will be asked to leave campus and return home if residing in the state of North Carolina or residing in a state within a 100-mile radius of Wingate University
- Isolation and Quarantine will continue for 21 days* (See Exceptions Below)
- Individuals who develop symptoms during the isolation period will be expected to see a Health Care Provider
- Measles testing may be completed at Union County Health Department or local Health Department, if isolating outside Union County, for Measles testing
- **Exceptions for High-Risk, Exposed Individuals (*)**

Individuals who are High Risk and or unvaccinated (and meet criteria for MMR vaccination) can end isolation if receiving MMR vaccination within 72 hours of exposure to Measles.

Again, if these individuals develop symptoms with-in 21 days of a Measles exposure they are expected to follow this policy in full (masking, isolating, contacting Health Care Professionals, etc.)

Those who are uncertain of vaccination status can opt for MMR vaccine during a period of outbreak as well.

Situations that may not require exclusion:

Students, Faculty and Staff can continue to participate in campus-based activities if they meet the criteria of "Low Risk" as follows:

- Presumed immunity for individuals born in the U.S. prior to 1957
- Presumed immunity for individuals born outside the U.S. prior to 1970 **AND** moved to the U.S. in 1970 or later
- Presumed immunity for individuals born in any country in 1976 or later **AND** attended a U.S. primary or secondary school
- Have confirmed documentation of at **least one dose of MMR vaccine** given on/after their first birthday in 1968 or later
- Have documented IgG + titer for Measles
- Served n the U.S. armed forces
- Entered the U.S. as a permanent U.S. resident or became a U.S. citizen in 1996 or later

Situations that require a note from a health care professional

A note from the student, faculty or staff's health care professional is necessary when the individual is not evaluated by the University Health Center healthcare providers.

Information included in the expected note is name of individual, date of birth, evaluation/examination, diagnosis and testing results (if applicable).

Reportable Diseases and Disease Outbreaks

North Carolina Public Health law require reporting of certain communicable diseases.

Measles is a Reportable Disease by Federal and North Carolina state requirements

- Anyone suspected of, tested for Measles will be reported to the State of North Carolina
- Contract tracing will be completed as deemed by the Union Co. (or surrounding counties) Health Department

This link will provide individuals with a list of North Carolina reportable diseases:

healthchildcare.unc.edu/reportable-diseases. Faculty, staff and Commuter students will notify Wingate University Health Center if themselves or a member of their household develops a known or suspected reportable disease.

Students, Parents, legal guardians, faculty and staff should report a diagnosis or suspected diagnosis of any communicable disease to:

Wingate University Health Center

Process of reporting

Hours of Operation: Monday- Friday 8 am – 4 pm

Phone: (704) 233-8102 *Fax:* (704) 233-8104

Email: health.center@wingate.edu

Wingate University Health Center will contact the following agency immediately if cases or suspected cases of reportable diseases become known to them:

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| Local health department/agency: | Union Co. Health Department |
| Name or title of individual to contact: | Communicable Disease Nurse |
| Phone number: | (704) 296- 4600 |
| Email address: | |

When contacting the local health department, explain that the call is to report a communicable disease at Wingate University. The person reporting then provides information that the local health department/agency requires.

Reports received from the local health department

Local Health Departments (LHD) may contact the facility because they have received a report that an individual has a communicable disease that may affect our campus. The LHD will determine if an investigation is needed to identify who was exposed to the disease. Wingate University will follow the guidance from the local health department to reduce the spread of the disease.

Outbreaks of communicable disease

An outbreak is defined as a sudden or unexpected rise in the number of people with the same communicable disease or condition. If we identify a rise in a disease or condition, even those that are not required to be reported, we will contact the local health department and follow their guidance.

Exclusion of individuals during vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks

Most Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD) are reportable. Students, faculty, staff who are not immunized or do not have all of their immunizations, may require extended exclusions during a vaccine-preventable disease outbreak. This may include individuals who:

- have medical or religious exemptions to vaccination.

The local health department will:

- confirm the individual has the vaccine-preventable disease
- determine who must be excluded from campus-based activity
- determine the date individual individuals may return to on campus-activity
- provide guidance on how to prevent the spread of the disease and keep your community, household, University and community safe.

References/Rules

- North Carolina General Statute
- Communicable Disease Laws and Rules
- CDC www.cdc.gov
- Immunization Laws and Rules
- American Academy of Pediatrics
 - Managing Infectious Diseases in Schools (find the latest edition at www.aap.org/en/shopaap)

Communication

This policy will be reviewed every year and/as if needed in case of an active outbreak of communicable illness in Union County, surrounding counties and/or at Wingate University. Students, faculty and staff and parents/guardians will be informed if changes are made.

Students, Faculty, Staff, Parents/Guardians of Wingate University

Within 30 days of the first day of on campus-activities (employment, on-campus classes, etc.) individuals, mentioned above, shall review the policy.

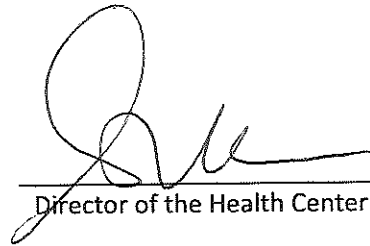
The policy will be provided electronically (email, accessible via Wingate webpage, etc.).

Unvaccinated and or High-Risk Individuals will:

- Parents/guardians will sign an acknowledgment form that includes the review of the policy for this group
- The University Health Center shall keep the signed acknowledgment form in the individual's file.
- If the University changes this policy at any time, the University shall give written notice of the change to the individuals at least 7 days prior to the implementation of the new policy.

2-11-26
Effective Date

This policy was reviewed and approved by:



Director of the Health Center

2-11-26
Date

