

AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

Policy Number: 3:021	Supersedes Policy Number: 3:021
Date: August 6, 1992	Dated: February 1, 1988
Subject: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)	
Initiating Authority: Vice President for Student Affairs	TBR Policy/Guideline Reference:
Approved:  President	

INTRODUCTION

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a life-threatening viral disease that causes the body's immune system to cease functioning altogether or to function at a lowered level of efficiency. Individuals who contract the disease are vulnerable to selected illnesses that would not normally be a threat to them. AIDS is caused by infection with a virus known as human T-cell lymphotropic or HIV (Human Immuno-deficiency Virus--formerly known as HTLV-III). Many infected persons may remain in reasonably good health, with an absence of signs or symptoms, while others develop serious health problems accompanied by full-blown symptoms and a high degree of mortality.

BACKGROUND

HIV transmission is caused by sexual contact, hypodermic needle sharing, introduction of body fluids from an infected person into the blood stream of a non-infected person (through a cut, puncture, or break in the skin), or, less commonly, through blood transfusions. The virus may also be transmitted from infected mothers to infants before, during, or shortly after birth. Individuals with high risk of infection are sexually active, gay and bisexual males, intravenous drug users, hemophiliacs and the sexual partners (homosexual and heterosexual) of these high risk persons.

Transmission does not appear to be occurring through families (unless a sexual partner), occupational, casual or social settings, nor does there appear to be evidence that transmission occurs through airborne or foodborne modes. Similarly, there appears to be no indication that the virus is transmitted through objects handled by persons infected with AIDS or by contaminated environmental surfaces. A 1:10 solution of household Clorox as well as household detergent kills the virus.

Supporting evidence, as ascertained by the Centers for Disease Control and Tennessee Department of Public Health, shows no spread of the virus within families after several years of daily intimate contact with a virus-positive family member, unless a sexual partner. Of the more than 29,000 AIDS patients, studies indicate that most carried the virus three to four years prior to their diagnosis and did not transmit the virus to their family, friends, co-workers, schoolmates, health care workers, etc., except as noted above. Similarly, the only transmission between persons testing HIV positive and their long-time casual or close friends, and other contacts, has been via those same methods.

GUIDELINES

The following policy guidelines are herewith promulgated based on the best information about the disease currently available from the Atlanta Center for Disease Control, the Tennessee Department of Public Health and the American College Health Association:

1. Routine screening for AIDS virus infection for University admission or employment is not warranted. University officials shall not undertake programs of screening employees or students for HIV antibody.
2. Students and employees shall not be required to respond to questions about the existence of AIDS, ARC or positive HIV antibody test. Members of high-risk groups shall not be excluded from admission to the University or from University housing or other services normally available to the academic community.
3. AIDS infected students and/or employees shall be allowed to attend classes and other University activities and work in an unrestricted setting. The institution shall reserve the right to review the individual circumstances of AIDS victims who are students and employees. These circumstances would include, but not necessarily be limited to, such areas as roommates or suitemates in campus housing; classes involving close personal contact such as those providing training in mouth-to-mouth resuscitation; and work or training experience in certain areas such as health care, campus security, laboratory research, day care centers for young children, and food preparation. In the event an AIDS victim develops open skin lesions, uncontrolled diarrhea, or other evidence of clinical deterioration of his/her disease to the extent that the possibility of transmission of the disease might be increased, institution officials will review the individual circumstances in consultation with medical authorities.
4. AIDS infected students shall not be excluded as residents in University housing or from services normally available to them.

5. AIDS is a reportable disease in the State of Tennessee. Health Services personnel will strictly observe public health reporting requirements for persons presenting with AIDS or AIDS related conditions. (See Attachment A.)
6. Students with AIDS, AIDS Related Complex or a positive HIV antibody test shall be given assistance, consistent with other illnesses, in obtaining appropriate medical care, education and accommodations by Student Health Services.
7. Except for legally required reporting, as described in Section 5, the confidentiality of each known or suspected case of AIDS infection shall be carefully maintained.
8. If an employee or student has concerns about the presence of a person with the AIDS virus, that individual should consult with the University physician or other personnel in the Student Health Services.
9. Academic departments offering classes/laboratory experiments involving blood, blood products and body fluids shall take necessary steps to ensure the safety of participating individuals. (Refer to Policy # 3:026)
10. Students participating in field work experiences in community health care settings should be provided assurance by the training facility that it is in compliance with Tennessee Public Health guidelines for the handling of blood, blood products, and other body fluids. The health care facilities should have a posted policy for handling blood, blood products and other body fluids.
11. University students, faculty and staff shall be made aware of the risks associated with sexual activity and intravenous drug abuse as well as contact with blood or bodily fluids, through the distribution of educational pamphlets and other materials and programs by Student Health Services. Employees must attend an annual in-service conducted by Student Health Services. (Refer to Policy # 3:026)

INFORMATION UPDATE

Review and changes in these policy guidelines may be made as new information and supporting evidence emerge from the Department of Public Health and/or the Atlanta Center for Disease Control.

The Student Health Services Director will maintain complete and updated information. Individuals with questions concerning this policy and/or the subject contained therein may direct them to the Student Health Services Director and/or the University Physician.

Attachment A

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING
INDIVIDUALS TO THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES

1. Once a campus physician or health care worker has knowledge that an individual has the AIDS virus, the central office of the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment (TDHE), AIDS Division, should be notified.
2. A positive HIV-III antibody test and ARC conditions are reportable.
3. The information that should be reported to the TDHE is the name, address, telephone number, age, sex and marital status of the individual. Extreme caution should be used to protect the privacy rights of the individual.
4. It is recommended that the campus physician or health care official notify Dr. Gary Swinger of the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment AIDS program by telephone at (615) 741-7247; however, if it is necessary to contact the office by mail, the following procedures should be noted:
 - a) the identity of the individual should be contained in a short note enclosed in an opaque envelope;
 - b) the envelope should be addressed to Dr. Gary Swinger, Tennessee Department of Health and Environment, AIDS program, 3rd Floor, 100 North 9th Avenue, Nashville, TN 37219-5405;
 - c) The phrase, CONFIDENTIAL, TO BE OPENED BY ADDRESSEE ONLY, should be underscored on the outside of the envelope.
5. The campus physician or health care worker should not make the information available to the general staff.
6. The campus physician or health care worker should recommend counseling and additional testing at the TDHE if it is not available at the institution.
7. Please note that while there are regional offices located throughout the state, initial inquiries and reporting should be sent to the central office where it will be referred to the appropriate regional office.