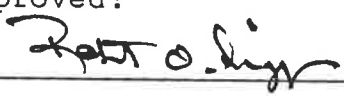


AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

Policy Number: 3:021	Supersedes Policy Number:
Date: September 16, 1987	Dated:
Subject: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)	
Initiating Authority: Dean of Students	SBR 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. Rarely has documented infection occurred when body fluids of the AIDS victim come in contact with open wounds (scratches, etc.) or with mucous membranes of the eye or mouth (through splashing).

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 Chlorox 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, family 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.
2. 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.
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.
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 should 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.
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 through the distribution of educational pamphlets and other materials and programs by Student Health Services.

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 Service 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.