



Ambulatory Clinic Policy and Procedure

Title: OUTBREAK INVESTIGATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE	Policy Number: EP 7.22
Regulation Reference: Joint Commission	Effective Date: 05/2017

Policy Statement:

It is the policy of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso (TTUHSC El Paso) to have consistent and standardized methods for management of infectious disease outbreaks.

Scope and Distribution:

This policy applies and will be distributed to all Texas Tech Physicians of El Paso clinics.

Procedure:

In the event of an infectious disease outbreak in TTUHSC El Paso, the following procedure will be implemented:

1. Assemble a multidisciplinary team to investigate outbreak.
2. Confirm that an outbreak exists.
 - a. Establish a case definition:
 - Who: Identify population involved.
 - When: Identify time parameters.
 - Where: Identify system clinics or areas that have been exposed to infectious patients.
 - b. Determine whether further investigation is warranted.
3. Manage Outbreak.
 - a. Reinforce awareness among staff members regarding infection control and prevention measures necessary to terminate or control the outbreak.
 - b. Implement and measure compliance with basic infection control procedures (e.g. hand hygiene, isolation precautions, respiratory etiquette, and dedicate equipment for that population).
 - c. Discontinue certain procedures/devices or products that may be linked to transmission.
 - d. Notified those responsible for infection control and prevention including medical directors, administrative staff, staff members directly involved in the care of the patients, and other affected departments regarding investigation.
 - e. Identify additional cases by reviewing laboratory and medical records for the pertinent time period, performing interviews with clinicians, and reviewing procedures records.
4. Create a data collection tool that organizes the information and ensures the same information is obtained for each case. This can be accomplished by obtaining the following:
 - Demographic information (name, service date, and location of visit)
 - Clinical information (signs and symptoms, onset date).
 - Risk factors (procedures performed, device used, and caregiver information).



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- Microbiological information and other pertinent diagnostic test results.
5. Characterized the cases by person, place, and time.
 - Line listing will assist in evaluating case information in a quick manner in order to examine what factors are common to all or most cases.
 - Epidemic Curve describes an outbreak over time.
 6. Attempt to determine the cause of the outbreak and then apply information to all know cases.
 7. Institute appropriate control measures based on the cause and ensure that the control measures are effective/appropriate in stopping the transmission.
 8. Report findings to organizational leadership and regulatory authorities as appropriate:
 - a. Circumstances leading to the outbreak.
 - b. Summary of the outbreak investigation.
 - c. Case definition and data analysis.
 - d. Outline of control measures.
 - e. Plan for continued surveillance and outgoing prevention and control measures.
 9. Report to City of El Paso Department of Public Health in accordance with state and local ordinances, for more information please see policy EP 7.8 Notifiable Conditions Reporting.

Policy Number: EP 7.22	Original Approval Date: 04/2017
Version Number: 1	Effective Date: 5/2017
Signatory approval on file by: Juan Figueroa, M.D. Director of Clinical Operations Clinic Operations Committee, Chair Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso	