

Texas County Technical College  
Accelerated LPN to RN and Practical Nursing Program

## **Management of Potentially Infectious Exposures and Illnesses for Healthcare Professionals**

The campus of Texas County Technical College is open; students are encouraged to use social distancing guidelines and good hygiene practices. See below.

The following guidelines are recommended to prevent the spread of illness and disease for healthcare workers according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/steps-when-sick.html>

### **I. Signs and Symptoms**

Students are encouraged to report potentially infectious exposures or illnesses. Students who have any of the following symptoms are to notify the school and his or her clinical instructor prior to reporting to class or the clinical site:

- a. Fever
- b. Cough
- c. Difficulty breathing
- d. Shortness of breath
- e. Malaise or fatigue
- f. Body aches
- g. Sore throat
- h. Loss of taste or smell
- i. Fever greater than 100.4

### **II. Steps to Prevent the Spread of Illness**

Students who are sick should adhere to the following CDC guidelines:

- a. Stay home except to get medical care
- b. Separate yourself from other people and animals in your home
- c. Wear a facemask if you are sick
- d. Cover your coughs and sneezes
- e. Clean your hands often
- f. Clean “high-touch” surfaces daily, such as your desk, computer, and workspace
- g. Monitor your symptoms and seek medical assistance as needed

### **III. Report Exposure**

It is recommended that students exposed to or suspected of influenza or COVID-19 contact his or her health care provider. The CDC recommends self-quarantine for 14 days for suspected COVID-19, for those who are exhibiting symptoms.

### **IV. Restrictions**

While on clinical rotations, TCTC students will be prohibited from providing care (including screening) to patients suspected of having COVID-19 or patients who have tested positive. This puts the student at an unnecessary risk of exposure to COVID-19 and uses PPEs needed for the clinical sites to appropriately care for their patients.

Students who test positive for influenza, have been exposed or are suspected to have COVID-19 will be subject to the following:

- a. For influenza: Students will not be allowed to attend classes or clinical until symptoms subside and he or she has been without fever for 24 hours without medication.
- b. For exposure/suspected COVID-19: According to the CDC, students who have recently traveled outside of the United States, or who have been exposed to individuals who have traveled outside of the United States, and have a fever of 100.4 or greater and signs and symptoms of an upper respiratory infection, at home quarantine for 14 days is recommended for those who present with symptoms. If no symptoms are present quarantine may be discontinued after day 10 of exposure without testing. Those that wish to have testing performed may return after day 7 after receiving negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later). Students will be responsible for acquiring testing and submitting proof of negative test results. During that time students will not be allowed to attend class or clinical.
- c. Students who exhibit any of the above mentioned signs or symptoms should not come to class or clinical. Test make-up penalties and clinical make-up assessments will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Students will be responsible for keeping up with all homework and classwork using Moodle as instructed. The handbook policy regarding minimum attendance will still remain in effect. It is the responsibility of the student to schedule clinical make-up time with the instructor or program coordinator. Failure to complete course work or clinical time may result in failure of the course and removal from the program.

**V. Contingency Plan**

In the event clinical sites or the campus is closed, or if an exposed student requires quarantine, the following measures will be implemented:

- a. Simulation will be used to replace clinical hours. If the campus is closed, on-line simulation resources such as vSim, ATI Real Life Scenarios, and other ATI tools used for simulation purposes will be utilized. If campus remains open and clinical sites are closed, simulation on campus will be used for clinical hours.
- b. Moodle will be used to facilitate courses. PowerPoints, podcasts, and other learning materials will be provided by course instructors under each designated week as usual. Facebook Live and/or Zoom meetings may also be used to broadcast lecture for students who may be quarantined at home, or if campus is closed. Students are required to submit homework assignments in the usual manner by the due date. No late work will be accepted as delineated in the course syllabus. Exams will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Texas County Technical College values the health and wellness of students, staff, and the community. By implementing the above guidelines, it is our hope that we can prevent the spread of infection and protect the health of the students and patients we serve.