Communicable Disease Policy
In partial fulfillment of the requirements for a degree in Athletic Training students must complete five clinical education field experiences whereby, under the direct supervision of BOC certified athletic trainers, students provide athletic training services and health care to physically active persons. Therefore, this policy has been developed to provide athletic training students with direction should they suspect they have an infectious/communicable disease. The goal of this policy is to minimize the possibility of transmission of infectious diseases from athletic training students to their patients.

Infectious diseases are illnesses that are caused by an organism, usually a virus, bacteria, or fungus. Many of these illnesses are contagious. Modes of transmission include airborne transmission, direct body contact, contact with blood or body fluids, indirect contact with inanimate objects such as drinking glasses, and even by flies or mosquitoes or other insects capable of spreading the disease. An athletic training student who suspects he/she has contacted an infectious/communicable disease should do the following:

1. Discontinue participation in the clinical education field experience and notify his/her preceptor.
2. Seek evaluation of, and treatment for, the suspected infectious disease at the College of Charleston Student Health Services or any comparable health care facility. The athletic training student should tell the health care provider that, as a course requirement, he will be in contact with patients in a health care setting such as an athletic training facility.
3. Follow the instructions provided by the health care provider, specifically that which applies to disqualification from and return to participation in the clinical education field experience.

Through daily communications, an athletic training student is encouraged to keep his/her preceptor updated on the progress of his/her suspected communicable disease. However, an athletic training student is not obligated to provide his/her preceptor with personal health information.