

## STUDENT HEALTH POLICIES

**Purpose:** Nursing studies at Lamar University JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing (JGDSON) include practicum learning experience, which may present a potential risk of contracting and/or spreading infections. Nursing students must maintain optimal health. Students must be well informed in safeguarding the health of both patients and self. In addition to protecting the health of students and patients, the Student Health Policies address the requirements as directed by Lamar University, the Texas Department of State Health Services, and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). The nursing program requirements are titled Practicum Readiness Documents (PRDs).

PRD documents include the Health Statement Form, current cardiopulmonary resuscitation training (CPR), proof of liability insurance, immunizations, and TB screening. The JGDSON has partnered with StudentCheck/Sentry MD, a PRD tracking service, to receive, record, update, and report student's compliance with all PRD requirements.

### Policy

1. **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR):** Nursing students must maintain current CPR certification. The American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) Provider course is the approved CPR course for the (JGDSON).
2. **Health Statement Form:** A completed Health Statement Form must be submitted to StudentCheck/SentryMD, **prior to the deadline given** when entering the nursing program. Thereafter, the Health Statement Form must be submitted annually, one week prior to the first class day as published by the university academic calendar.
3. **Immunizations:** The required immunizations must be initiated by the date indicated in the admission packet. In the event of identification of potential/actual conditions that may interfere with the student's ability to fulfill curriculum outcomes, the student will be referred to the Associate Director of Undergraduate Nursing Studies.
4. **Liability Insurance**  
All students must purchase professional liability insurance. Insurance must be renewed yearly. This insurance will not cover students at work or at times other than supervised clinical practice.
5. **Student Health and Practicum Attendance**
  - A. **Minor Contagious Illness**  
In the event of contracting minor contagious illnesses such as upper respiratory infections with cough and fever, influenza, contagious skin lesions, or other disorders spread by droplets, secretions, or skin contact, the student should seek medical consultation before participating in the practicum experience.
  - B. **Serious Illness, Injury, Surgery, or Pregnancy**  
In the event of a serious illness, injury, surgery or pregnancy, the student must obtain a physician's release prior to participating in the practicum experience. In addition, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines relating to infected health care workers must be adhered to, as applicable (see the Attendance, Absence, and Change of Life Event Policy).
6. **Student Injury in Practicum Area**
  - A. **Personal injury, non-infectious**  
In event of accidental personal injury related to patient care, the student must:
    - (1) Notify the practicum instructor.
    - (2) Seek medical assistance from personal physician or emergency care services, as needed.
    - (3) Implement variance/occurrence policy of health care facility, with assistance from practicum instructor.
  - B. **Personal Injury, infectious**  
In the event of an accidental injury such as a contaminated needle stick, the student must:
    - (1) Notify the practicum instructor.
    - (2) Notify the infection control nurse employed by the health care facility.
    - (3) Seek medical assistance at own expense.
    - (4) Follow the current guidelines for immediate and follow-up care as recommended by the CDC.
    - (5) Implement variance occurrence/policy of health care facility, with assistance from practicum instructor.

7. Health Care Expenses

Lamar University JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing does not assume financial responsibility for student health care. Expense for all health care, such as physical examinations, immunizations, laboratory and other diagnostic tests, and treatment of illnesses and injuries (including those incurred while in the practicum settings) is the responsibility of the student. The student may refer to the Lamar University Comprehensive Catalog regarding the availability of student health services.

8. Student health records shall be maintained in a confidential manner.

*Adopted 3/1/03; Revised May 1998; 5/12/99, 10/20/2014, 11/18/2016, /23/2022; Revised FA 12/4/2024*