

Policy on Bloodborne Pathogens

Due to the nature of the healthcare profession, students will participate in a learning environment that has the potential of exposure to blood borne pathogens. Accepted students are provided with written policies and instruction on infection control protocols to reduce the risk of disease transmission. The program complies with all institutional, local, state, and federal policies.

The following policy was adopted in an attempt to balance CDC and state guidelines regarding exposure control and to protect the privacy of an infected individual. These guidelines are based on the most current CDC and equivalent state recommendations.

1. Herzing University will not discriminate against any applicant for admission to the program, faculty, students, or patients who are known to have blood borne infectious diseases. As such, Herzing University has no requirement for mandatory testing of any of these individuals for HIV, HBV, or HCV. Tuberculosis testing (Mantoux) is required, as are all immunizations required by the state and participating clinical agencies, prior to admission. All immunizations, including the Mantoux, must remain current throughout the duration of the program.
2. It is recommended that all individuals who perform exposure-prone procedures should know their HIV and HBV status and/or their antibody status. It is a requirement that all faculty and students who may come in contact with potentially infectious bodily fluids receive the HBV vaccination. If an individual declines the vaccine, they must sign a waiver or produce a current titer that establishes immunity of vaccine preventable communicable diseases.
3. Faculty and students who are infected with the HIV, HBV, or HCV should not perform exposure-prone invasive procedures unless advised by a physician and/or expert review panel. Certain documentation may be required before submission into the program.
4. Any circumstance involving occupational exposure will be addressed by the faculty. Herzing University will cover the expense of having the exposed individual tested for HIV, HBV, and HCV. Any results regarding the individual's infection status will be protected as confidential to the extent required by law.
5. The one exception to the policy is the patient with active tuberculosis. Those individuals will not be treated by the student until the medical doctor responsible for the management of TB has given clearance.
6. All individuals involved in exposure-prone procedures will adhere to standard precautions for infection control.
7. This policy is subject to change as revisions to current guidelines are made by the CDC and other state and federal agencies.