



Limestone College

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EBOLA POLICY & PROCEDURE

Purpose: To provide College Health Center staff and other responsible College personnel with guidelines for planning for, responding to, and recovering from an occurrence of Ebola on the College's main campus or at any of its physical sites in South Carolina.

Responsibility: It is the responsibility of the Health Center staff, Public Safety officers, and the Assistant Athletic Director of Sports Health under the direction of the Consulting Physicians, College President, Student Services personnel, and the Limestone College Crisis Response Team to follow guidelines set-forth in this policy.

Policy: Limestone College Health Center and all responsible parties will assist the College in minimizing academic and operational disruption while safeguarding the health of the campus community in case of a possible incidence of Ebola.

- Limestone College Health Center, Public Safety employees, and the Assistant Athletic Director of Sports Health are to be educated and aware of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) exposure levels, signs and symptoms in order to respond appropriately based on recommendations by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and they are to maintain currency in information regarding the disease and CDC recommendations.
- Limestone College Health Center staff and other responsible College employees will ensure that the campus community is provided with information and resources from the CDC and other appropriate health organizations regarding EVD, using various forms of media, including the College website.
- Limestone College advises all students and employees who may be travelling or may have been in contact with someone who has travelled to the countries where the Ebola Outbreak is happening to report to their physician upon return and monitor their temperature for 21 days. Students should report such travel or contact to the College Health Center and/or the Athletic Health Director; employees should report to their physician. In addition, Limestone College advises all students and employees who are monitoring their health not to attend classes or report to work if they begin to exhibit symptoms of Ebola.

GAFFNEY CAMPUS: Limestone College Ebola Policy and Procedure

- If a Limestone College student or employee presents with fever and/or any other compatible EVD symptoms (headache, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, unexplained bleeding or bruising, muscle pain) and has travelled to an Ebola affected area or had contact with someone who has travelled within the past 21 days and begins to exhibit symptoms, the following steps will be taken.
- Isolate patient in a room with a private bathroom and with the door to hallway closed per CDC guidelines.
- Implement standard contact and droplet precautions (gown, facemask, eye protection, and gloves).
- IMMEDIATELY notify DHEC and responsible College staff members and prepare for safe transport.
- Evaluate for any risk of additional exposures to EVD on campus following CDC and DHEC guidelines and directions.
- In the event of having any Ebola Biohazard waste, Limestone College appropriate personnel will work with AEO and Logan Richardson, Environmental Health and Safety Compliance Officer, as directed by the CDC for pick up and disposal.
- Measures to decontaminate areas will be carried out according to policies and guidelines set forth by the CDC.

EXTENDED CAMPUS PROGRAM: Limestone College Ebola Policy and Procedure

- Limestone College Health Center staff is to provide education and appropriate training to Extended Campus Program employees, including the provision of information for contacting local public health facilities and the CDC.
- Limestone College Health Center staff will provide educational materials for students and staff at all sites, including the Internet program, and will provide each physical site with Personal Protection Equipment (PPE; e.g., masks and gloves) and guidance in its use.
- Limestone College Health Center staff will provide information and guidelines to each physical site regarding protocols for situations if any student or employee appears to meet criteria while at a site.
- Protocols will include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Upon determination that a person may meet the criteria, Extended Campus staff will isolate the person.
 - Extended Campus staff will use PPE and contact local medical resources for immediate response.

- Extended Campus staff will inform the main campus Health Center, the Director or the Dean of the Extended Campus Program who will, in turn, inform the Director of Communications.
- Extended Campus staff will contact immediately local public health regarding the incident.
- In the event of any EVD case at a site, Extended Campus staff will inform the College's Environmental Health and Safety Compliance Officer who is responsible for arranging for all clean up at the contaminated site.

NOTIFICATION PLAN: Limestone College Ebola Policy and Procedure

If a Limestone College student is identified as possibly infected with Ebola, the College will isolate the person, notify the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and public health department, and get the patient transported to a hospital designated by the CDC.

Communication strategies are an important component in managing any infectious disease outbreak and are essential in the event of an Ebola case. Accurate, timely, and consistent information at all levels is critical in order to minimize unwanted and unforeseen social disruption and economic consequences and to maximize the effective outcome of the response.

Parents of a student suspected of Ebola infection will be informed as soon as Limestone has done everything possible to ensure the safety of all its students and campus community, and as soon as it becomes possible to provide accurate and helpful information. Parent notification will be done by Limestone College Health Center staff.

Internal Communications

The Limestone College Health Center has been appointed to assess risks to the campus and interpret research and determine its public health relevance to the campus community.

If an Ebola risk is determined by the Health Center, the following offices will be contacted immediately by Health Center staff:

- Office of the President
- Campus Security
- Communications Office
- Crisis Response Team members
- Cabinet Members

The defined Limestone College communications plan will go into effect with a designated spokesperson appointed (College President and/or Director of Communications, or other designated person). No other individual, unless authorized by the President, may speak on behalf of the College regarding an ebola situation.

Health Center staff will then contact the family of the student possibly infected.

The communications plan will take into consideration an overview of all available campus media channels, including the emergency alert system (phone, text, email), website, social media, press releases, local media, etc.

The Communication plan will address the campus constituency at all levels to keep them informed of the progress and impact of the Ebola case, based on communications with federal, state and local public health offices.

The internal communication plan will address different target groups (e.g. staff, faculty, students, student health workers, and specific risk groups), key messages to be conveyed, and distribution mechanisms to reach the target groups.

External Communications

The external communication plan will target different target groups (e.g. parents, trustees, press, general public, etc.), key messages to be conveyed, and distribution mechanisms to reach the target groups.

Limestone's first priority is to ensure all students are safe. As soon as it is possible to do so, the Director of Communications and Communications Office will communicate information to parents and the community. Limestone has a variety of media available to parents and the community which will be updated, as needed, with the most complete and accurate information available.

1. EverBridge Emergency Alert System: phone and email notification to students/staff
2. Website: www.limestone.edu.
3. Toll-free number: 1-800-795-7151 (to reach a recorded message)
4. Local media outlets
5. Facebook: www.facebook.com/LimestoneCollege
6. Twitter: www.twitter.com/LimestoneBernie

Relationships with medical and public health specialists will be established who are able to help with the development of accurate and timely messages before and during an Ebola case.

A mechanism for daily briefings will be built into the communications plan if an Ebola case occurs locally or otherwise impacts institutional activities, i.e. satellite campuses.

Mechanisms will be established for information sharing with local authorities.

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Updated: November 24, 2014