

DO NOT PRINT THIS PAGE. FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS FOUND IN THE APPLICATION.

**PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM
PROTOCOL ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

Pueblo Community College is ethically obligated to protect the privacy and confidentiality of any faculty member, student, or staff member who has tested positive for an infectious disease. Dental personnel who pose a risk of transmitting an infectious disease must consult with appropriate health-care professionals to determine whether continuing to provide professional services represents a material risk to the patient and/or self. If a dental faculty, student, or staff member learns that continuing to provide professional services represents a material risk to patients, that person should so inform the dental hygiene chairperson. If so informed, the dental hygiene chairperson will take steps consistent with the advice of appropriate health-care professionals and with current federal, state, and/or local guidelines and will review matters on a case-by-case basis to decide what actions, if any, need to be taken to protect against direct threat of harm to others. In addition, the dental hygiene chairperson will facilitate appropriate counseling and follow up care, and will participate in establishing retraining and/or counseling programs for those faculty, staff, and students who do not continue to perform patient care procedures.

Qualified individuals will not be denied admission to the dental hygiene program or employment as a faculty or staff member solely on the basis of HIV status. A dental hygiene program student, faculty, or staff member in direct patient contact, who believes he/she to be at risk has an ethical responsibility to know his/her HIV antibody status. The testing decision will be voluntary, but due to the nature of the disease, the student, faculty, or staff member in direct patient contact is encouraged to be tested.

All dental hygiene program students and faculty are professionally and ethically obligated to provide patient care with compassion and respect for human dignity. No dental hygiene student or faculty may refuse to treat a patient solely because the patient is high risk for contracting, or is HIV positive, or has hepatitis, or any other infectious disease.

**PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM
PROTOCOL ON INFECTIOUS DISEASE TESTING AND VACCINATION**

Pueblo Community College's Dental Hygiene Program will facilitate the availability of testing of faculty, staff, and students for those infectious diseases presenting a documented risk to dental personnel and patients. Further, the Dental Hygiene Program will make available the hepatitis B vaccine and appropriate vaccine follow-up to employees such as faculty and staff who are in direct patient contact, in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. Also, in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, all students should (1) be immunized against the hepatitis B virus as part of their preparation for clinical training, (2) demonstrate proof of immunity, or (3) formally decline vaccination. Students who decline to be vaccinated are required to sign a formal declination waiver form, consistent with procedures promulgated by OSHA for employees. Pueblo Community College's Dental Hygiene Program strongly encourages faculty, staff, and students to be immunized against not only hepatitis B, but other infectious diseases such as mumps, measles, and rubella, using standard medical practices. In addition, the Dental Hygiene Program requires initial baseline testing for tuberculosis.

*COVID-19 vaccination: PCC is requiring proof of vaccination as of January 2022. If not vaccinated, weekly testing is required to be on campus. This is based on the most reliable information available at this printing and is subject to change at any time.

I have read the Pueblo Community College Dental Hygiene Program's Policies on Infectious Diseases and Infectious Disease Testing and Vaccination.