

**PICKENS TECHNICAL COLLEGE**  
**DENTAL ASSISTING INFECTION CONTROL PROTOCOL**

Pickens Technical College (PTC) is committed to providing a healthy working environment throughout all of its campus sites. The purpose of the Infection Control Protocol in Dental Assisting is to protect students, faculty, dentists and visitors to the college from infectious diseases. PTC is ethically obligated to protect the privacy and confidentiality of any faculty, staff, student or dentist who has tested positive for an infectious disease.

The Infection Control Protocol is based on the concept of Standard Precautions. Standard Precautions refers to an approach to infection control that assumes all human blood and other potentially infectious materials (OPIM's) of all patients are potentially infected with HIV, HBV, HCV or other bloodborne pathogens. Standard Precautions are intended to prevent health care workers from parenteral, mucous membrane and non-intact skin exposure to bloodborne pathogens while carrying out the tasks associated with their occupations.

The Dental Assisting program also adheres to strict Infection Control Protocols and requires that dental assisting faculty, staff, students and dentists who pose a risk of transmitting an infectious disease consult with appropriate health care professionals. This is to determine whether continuing to provide professional services represents a material risk to the patient and/or self. If a dental faculty, staff, student or dentist learns that continuing to provide professional services represents a material risk to patients, that person should so inform the dental assisting program director. If so informed, the program director will take steps consistent with the advice of appropriate health care professionals 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 program director may, with the assistance of administrators and the Office of Student Services, choose to facilitate appropriate counseling and follow up care.

All faculty, staff, students and dentists of the Dental Assisting program have been classified in accordance with OSHA guidelines into Category I, II or III depending on their job-related risk of exposure to infectious disease. Classification of personnel is the responsibility of the Program Director in consultation with the Instructor of Infection Control.

**CATEGORY**

**PERSONNEL**

**Category I:** tasks that involve exposure to blood, body fluids or tissue.

All clinical teaching faculty, dentists and students.

**Category II:** tasks that involve not routine expose to blood, body fluids or tissues, but employment may require performing unplanned Category I tasks.

All clinical teaching faculty, facility staff, dentists and student.

**Category III:** tasks that involve no expose to blood, body fluids or tissue

Administrative Assistants

All students will have taken DEA 126 Infection Control and passed with a 71% or better prior to enrolling in DEA 180, DEA 181, and DEA 182, Dental Clinics.

PTC will facilitate the availability of testing and follow-up of faculty and staff for who are in direct patient contact, in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. PTC will also facilitate the availability of testing and follow-up for students while in DEA 182 Dental Clinic Externship and Seminar.

In accordance with the 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 vaccinations. Students who decline to be vaccinated are required to sign a formal declination waiver form consistent with procedures promulgated by OSHA for employees.

I have read, understand and agree to abide by the Pickens Technical College Dental Assisting Program's protocols on Infectious Diseases and Infectious Disease Testing and Vaccination.

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Applicant Signature

Date