

FSH 6990

Communicable Disease Emergency Response

A. Scope. This policy applies to all University of Idaho students and employees.

B. Purpose. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the University is able to respond quickly and effectively to protect the UI community and the interests of the institution in the event of a public health emergency caused by a communicable disease outbreak.

C. Definitions

1. Communicable disease: A disease which may be transmitted from one person or an animal to another person either by direct contact or through an intermediate host, vector, inanimate object, or other means which may result in infection, illness, disability or death.
2. Outbreak: An unusual rise in the incidence of a disease. An outbreak may consist of a single case.
3. Public health emergency: For the purposes of this policy, a communicable disease outbreak is determined to be a public health emergency by local, state, or federal health authorities.

D. Policy

1. Applicability. In the event of a communicable disease outbreak, the president will consult with local, state, or federal health authorities as appropriate. If the outbreak is determined by public health authorities to be a public health emergency, the president may take action under the provisions of D-2. In the absence of a declaration of public health emergency, and if necessary to protect the UI community and the interests of the institution, the president may, after consultation with public health authorities, Faculty Senate leadership and Staff Council leadership, take action under the provisions of D-2.
2. Temporary policies and procedures. To the extent necessary to implement or enforce the University's response to a public health emergency caused by a communicable disease outbreak, the University may establish temporary policies and procedures which may be inconsistent with existing policies and procedures. Prior to final implementation, the administration shall seek the input of affected constituencies, Staff Council leadership, and Faculty Senate leadership as appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Any such policy or procedure must be approved by the president or designee and published online, with a notice published in the Register as soon as reasonably practical.
3. Termination. If there is a declaration of public health emergency by local, state, or federal authorities, temporary actions under this policy will remain in effect only for so long as the declaration of public health emergency remains in effect. In the absence of a declaration of public health emergency, actions taken under this policy will remain in effect for up to 180 days.

a. At any time prior to the expiration of 180 days, the president, in consultation with Faculty Senate, Staff Council, and public health authorities, may terminate the temporary actions if deemed no longer necessary.

b. Actions taken under this policy may be granted a one-time 180-day renewal by the president. Prior to renewing the actions, the president shall seek input from Faculty Senate, Staff Council, and public health authorities.

E. Effective date. This policy shall be effective as of the date of final approval.