

Physician Assistant Studies Program Health and Safety Policies
(Excerpt from the PA Program Student Handbook 2027-2028)

Health and Safety Policies

The PA Program includes many potentially dangerous exposures to infectious diseases. Although the staff and faculty of Plaza College and its clinical rotation partners will provide as much protection and guidance as possible, neither the College, its staff, nor faculty can accept any responsibility or financial liability for injury, illness, or exposure of any student in this program.

Incident Reporting

Any and all incidents that occur at any time during classroom, lab, simulation, or clinical rotation training must be reported as soon as possible to the faculty and to PA Program administration.

On-Campus Incidents or Accidents:

Should a personal injury occur in the classroom, on campus, in simulation, or lab settings, faculty will complete and review an incident report that the student will be required to sign. A copy of the report will be placed in the student's file.

Incidents and Accidents Occurring at Clinical Sites:

Any accident or injury at a clinical site must be reported as soon as possible to the PA Program Director of Clinical Education and the PA Program Director. Students must also follow any policies the clinical site facility has regarding incident reporting. If you are injured at a clinical site, you may have the opportunity to be treated at that site. The clinical site is under no obligation, and the Plaza College PA Program is prohibited from treating you. For this reason, students are required to maintain independent health insurance coverage. Students are advised to carry their health insurance cards at all times. Health insurance should be billed for these services.

Contact with some bodily fluids, needle sticks, and penetrating injuries poses the risk of infection by blood-borne pathogens. Students should clean the wound with soap and water and report such injury immediately to their faculty instructor, clinical preceptor, the PA Program Director of Clinical Education, and the PA Program Director. A medical evaluation should occur shortly after the incident. In some cases, treatment or prophylaxis for HIV infection may be indicated. If prophylaxis against HIV is indicated, it should be started, ideally, within two (2) hours of the exposure, although some begin prophylaxis as long as 48 hours after exposure. Program faculty will help direct you to the nearest Emergency Department if the clinical site where the incident occurred is unable to evaluate the incident. Furthermore, if a significant event occurs, a Plaza College Incident Report must be completed and submitted to the college within 48 hours of the occurrence. Students are required to submit a written account of the incident to the PA Program Director of Clinical Education.

Prevention:

All PA Program students will receive training on preventing needlesticks, preventing bloodborne pathogen transmission, and practices to prevent the transmission and contracting of infectious diseases. This will include proper use of personal protective equipment and methods for donning and doffing that equipment.

All PA Program students should consistently follow standard precautions to reduce the risk of infectious disease transmission and occupational exposure to blood and body fluids. Perform appropriate hand hygiene before and after every patient encounter, use personal protective equipment (PPE) based on the anticipated exposure, and handle blood, body fluids, contaminated materials, and sharps safely. Never recap, bend, break, or manipulate used needles unless specifically required for a procedure and an approved safety technique is used; activate needle-safety devices when available and immediately dispose of used needles and other sharps in an approved sharps container. Maintain all required immunizations and follow applicable infection-control and exposure-prevention policies.