

<b>Section:</b> UTMB On-line Documentation	<b>01.01 – Policy</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology Policies and Procedures	<b>04.23.24 - Revised</b>
<b>Topic:</b> 01.01 - Authority Statement for the Department of Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology	<b>1978 - Author</b>

## 01.01 - Authority Statement for the Department of Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology

Purpose	To define the authority of Department of Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology.
Audience	All employees of UTMB hospitals, clinics, and outpatient surgical centers; contract workers, volunteers, and students
Policy Program	There shall be an effective infection control program within the UTMB hospitals and clinics to identify, control and prevent infections which are potential hazards to all persons having contact with the hospital and clinics.
Authority Statement	The UTMB Health System’s governing body, through its Senior Vice President & Chief Medical & Clinical Innovation Officer, is responsible for the implementation, performance, and sustainability of the infection prevention and control program and provides resources to support and track the implementation, success, and sustainability of the program’s activities. The governing body provides access to information technology; laboratory services; equipment and supplies; local, state, and federal public health authorities’ advisories and alerts, such as the CDC’s Health Alert Network (HAN); FDA alerts; manufacturers’ instructions for use; and guidelines used to inform policies.
Responsibilities	<p>Department of Infection Control &amp; Healthcare Epidemiology responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor nosocomial infection rates and communicate trends to appropriate departments.</li> <li>• Develop protocols designed to protect patients and employees from communicable diseases.</li> <li>• Organize and direct epidemiologic studies to determine the efficacy of established/proposed infection control techniques.</li> <li>• Investigate and develop control strategies for any infection outbreak (epidemic).</li> <li>• Develop infection control policies and procedures in conjunction with other departments for use throughout the hospitals and clinics for services and for specific areas.</li> <li>• Review and comment on departmental policies and procedures which have infection control ramifications.</li> </ul>
References	1. Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals, 2024 Edition; Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.