



Student Support Quick Guide:

A student has a communicable or notifiable disease

What should you look out for?

The University has around 15,000 students living and studying in close proximity across Edinburgh, the central belt and Borders. Given these numbers, the opportunity for close physical contact and the numbers of staff and students regularly returning to the UK from overseas, there is a risk that a serious disease or bout of illness may break out in our student accommodation or on campus. Whilst major outbreaks and serious diseases are thankfully comparatively rare, the University has both legal and moral responsibilities to respond in an appropriate and efficient way whilst being highly sensitive to any students affected. There is a statutory duty on the diagnosis of some communicable diseases, under the Public Health Scotland Act (2008), these include: cholera, malaria, measles, meningitis, mumps, SARS, TB and whooping cough.

It is possible that a student you know may come to you complaining that they are feeling ill with the symptoms of a communicable or notifiable disease. Alternatively, you may receive a report, directly or indirectly, that a student has already been diagnosed, or is being tested for, such a disease.

Please familiarise yourself with the [University's Communicable Diseases Contingency Plan: https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/governance-compliance/governance/risk-management/Documents/Communicable%20Diseases%20FINAL%20230418.pdf](https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/governance-compliance/governance/risk-management/Documents/Communicable%20Diseases%20FINAL%20230418.pdf)

What should you do?

1. Firstly, ensure the student is receiving appropriate medical attention.

For some conditions, this will mean advising that they go straight to their GP or go to Accident &

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Emergency. In other cases, you may need to phone an ambulance; if you are on University premises, an ambulance can be called by contacting the Security emergency number on 4444 or externally on 0131 455 6119.

2. Secondly, report the case internally within the University.

Office Hours: Contact the University Health and Safety team - 0131 455 6371 or 07826 905 293 and/or email: health&safetyoffice@napier.ac.uk

Out of Office hours: Contact the Central Security Control Room - dial 4444 from within the University or phone 0131 455 6119 from outside.

Try to have key information to hand when you make this call, such as:

- The student's name, student ID, and contact details (phone numbers are particularly helpful)
- Information about the student's current whereabouts
- Information about whether the student has already received a diagnosis and which parts of the NHS they have already engaged with.

What happens next?

The University Health and Safety team will use the Communicable Diseases Plan to guide their response and that of other University teams. In most cases the response will be delivered in partnership with the NHS Health Protection team.

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For further information or to provide feedback about this Quick Guide, please [contact dlte@napier.ac.uk](mailto:contact_dlte@napier.ac.uk)



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