



## Murray State College Veterinary Nursing Program- Distance Learning Health/Risk & Liability Release

### Health Risk Acknowledgement

**Assumption of Risk:** All distance learning students working in a veterinary facility may encounter animals that can cause traumatic injury and/or expose them to infectious agents that cause disease. Students may also be exposed to ionizing radiation (e.g., x-rays), zoonotic diseases, volatile anesthetic gases, and chemical substances which can cause bodily harm. By enrolling in any of the distance learning courses, students voluntarily accept these risks exist and assume the responsibility to always act safely and responsibly.

**Pregnancy:** Pregnancy shall be considered a condition for which there are definite health concerns, for which the student needs additional information about these concerns, and for which Murray State College (MSC) and the clinical preceptor(s) need assurance that the student has received this information from her physician.

In the event of pregnancy, the student must provide written assurance to the MSC Veterinary Distance Learning Program and the clinical preceptors that she has received this information from her physician, understands the risks involved, agrees to take all reasonable precautions, and still desires to continue with her educational program.

Due to the inherent risks involved with working with horses, cattle, small ruminants, swine, and the common species of laboratory animals, pregnant students will be allowed to participate in any Fast Track labs under the condition that the student has discussed the risks with her physician and is able to provide written consent from her physician and sign a waiver provided by MSC. The inherent risks include, but are not limited to, physical trauma, long and physically strenuous class hours, and the possible exposure to zoonotic diseases.

**Personal Injury:** There is an inherent risk in the practice of veterinary medicine, and students should be aware there is always the risk of personal injury. Students should take every precaution when completing clinical tasks or treatments on patients. Students should avoid aggressive or dangerous animals and always be aware of the physical status of the patient, including its Rabies vaccination status.

Bites and scratches may potentially expose individuals to biologic hazards which may be transmitted through saliva, secretions, and/or blood. Preventative measures such as proper restraint, PPE, and pre-exposure vaccination should be taken to avoid unnecessary injuries. In the event of a bite, scratch, or puncture injury while performing specific required clinical tasks:

- The area should be thoroughly washed and cleansed immediately with soap and water for 15 minutes. Anyone assisting in cleansing the wound should wear gloves at all times.
- The student will be advised/required to seek the services of a physician or qualified medical professional. Students are strongly encouraged to seek an Urgent Care type facility to help ensure the bite, scratch or wound is seen in a timely manner.
- The student must provide written information to their MSC Veterinary Nursing online course instructor and the program director on the date of the injury, the type of the injury, and what steps have



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been taken for treatment because of the injury. Any ongoing care, updates, or treatment as a result of the original injury will also need to be reported to the program director.

**Tetanus:** If a student has never received tetanus immunization, the student should receive such immunizations as advised by his/her physician. If the student has had the initial series, they should consult with their physician as to whether a booster immunization is required.

**Rabies Protection:** Exposure risk: Rabies exposure is an occupational hazard for veterinary professionals, and preventive measures are necessary to protect the veterinary team. The level of risk for rabies exposure is dependent upon the geographical location of the Clinical Instruction Site, the type of animals to which the student is exposed, and the degree of contact with animals potentially carrying the rabies virus.

Pre-Exposure Vaccination: Per the AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association), "Pre-exposure rabies vaccination provides additional protection for at-risk veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and other team members. Vaccination does not replace good preventive measures such as personal protective equipment, and safe procedures for animal and specimen handling.

Murray State College Veterinary Nursing requires the Pre-exposure rabies vaccination prior to handling any animals during their time in the program. This vaccination should be administered according to the current CDC guidelines for Risk Category 3. Titers and boosters should also be maintained as recommended by the CDC. Failure to complete the recommended series puts an individual at risk of incomplete protection if exposed to rabies. Pre-exposure vaccination can be ordered by a physician or arranged through your local or state health department. Insurance coverage can vary according to the individual policy. Please consult your medical insurance provider for clarification of coverage.

I have read the above information about the potential health risks involved with my participation in the MSC Veterinary Nursing Program. I understand that Murray State College is not responsible for paying medical bills, costs, or expenses for injuries sustained by me while participating in the Veterinary Nursing Program. I understand that all medical bills, costs, or expenses are my responsibility.

I am currently covered by health insurance that will cover treatments for potential injuries and illnesses resulting from my participation in the MSC Veterinary Nursing Program.

I am not presently covered by health insurance. I understand that Murray State College is not responsible for paying medical expenses for injuries sustained by me while participating in the MSC Veterinary Nursing Program.

### Agreement and Release of Liability

By enrolling in the MSC Veterinary Nursing Program, I recognize that I am cognizant of all the dangers inherent in the veterinary medical profession and of the basic safety rules for activities conducted in association with this program. I further acknowledge that I have familiarized myself with any additional dangers associated with the site that I have chosen to perform my clinical instruction. I acknowledge that my decision to choose this Clinical Instruction Site was not influenced by Murray State College. I



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understand that it is not the purpose of Murray State College to serve as guardians of my safety while enrolled in the MSC Veterinary Nursing Program.

I further understand and agree that Murray State College or any of their officers, members, agents or employees shall not be held liable in any way for any occurrence which may result in injury, death or other damages to me or my family, heirs, or assigns in connection with my participation in the MSC Veterinary Learning Program.

In consideration of my enrollment in the MSC Veterinary Nursing Program, I hereby personally assume all risks in connection with them, and I further release and discharge Murray State College and any of their officers, members, agents or employees (the "Released Parties) for any injury or damage, including death, that may befall me while I am enrolled as a student in the MSC Veterinary Nursing Program, including all risks connected therewith, whether foreseen or unforeseen and further to save and hold harmless the Released Parties from any claim by me, or my family, estate, heirs or assigns, arising out of my enrollment and participation in the MSC Veterinary Nursing Program.

I further state that I am of lawful age and legally competent to sign this affirmation and release, and I understand that the terms herein are contractual. I have fully informed myself of the contents of this affirmation and release by reading it before I signed it. I am aware that this is a release of liability and a contract drawn between myself and Murray State College and any of their officers, members, agents or employees. I have signed this affirmation of my own free will. I further state that I have read and understood the policy on student professional liability insurance and responsibilities and agree to the terms of that policy.

Student's Typed Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Address: Click or tap here to enter text.

City, State: Click or tap here to enter text.

Zip Code: Click or tap here to enter text.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

***Notarization Required***

(Please include visible Notary Seal or Stamp)

State of: \_\_\_\_\_ County of: \_\_\_\_\_

This instrument was acknowledged before me on \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of the notarial officer)

My commission expires: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_