

223. INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide information concerning infectious disease control procedures. To provide guidelines to reduce exposure or contamination of personnel by proper action and equipment usage. To permit Breckenridge Police Department members to continue providing a proper level of protection for all involved.

POLICY

It is the policy of this Department that members shall comply with the following infections disease precautions and procedures:

- a. Discretion should be used by members to limit their exposure to contagious diseases.
- b. Protective disposable gloves and other infectious disease control materials should be used by members to prevent transmission of contagious diseases. Direct contact with blood, vomit, spittle, urine and other, bodily fluids should be avoided whenever possible. Members are required to keep their department issued protective equipment available and ready for use while on their tours of duty.
- c. Members should be aware that certain prescribed medications such as steroids and asthma medications suppress their immune systems and make them more susceptible to infectious disease. Members should consult with their private physician if they are taking prescription drugs.
- d. Pregnant members should be advised to report to their physician any direct contact with body fluids in the line of duty. Infectious virus can cause severe problems in newborns.
- e. All employees will receive infectious disease training annually. Such training may be included in the first responders recertification training or provided by the Wilkin County Nurse staff. The training officer will be responsible for disseminating updated information and coordinating in-service training and keeping record of such training.
- f. All employees at substantial risk of directly contacting body fluids shall be offered Hepatitis B vaccine free of charge in amounts and at times prescribed in standard medical practices. Employees who choose not to participate must sign a waiver of such vaccination.

PROCEDURE

Supplies:

- A. Each officer will be responsible for the inventory of supplies for infections disease control in his/her care and immediate possession. He/she will also advise the sergeant or chief

that supplies have been used and need to be replaced and reordered.

- B. The Chief or officer assigned to this procurement will ensure that adequate supplies are available for infectious disease control for Department members working in the field and at the processing or interview rooms at the LEC.
- C. Members using supplies are responsible for replacing them; extra supplies will be kept in the processing room.
- D. Supplies to be kept in the squad cars will be in a called a "Patrol Car Kit" and will include:
 - A. Plastic biohazard bag and tie
 - B. Protective disposable gloves
 - C. Absorbent paper towels
 - D. Disposable hand wipes
 - E. Disinfectant Antimicrobial decontaminate
 - F. Eye/Nose/Mouth protection
 - G. CPR Mask or Bag
 - H. Sharps container
 - I. Plastic or Paper drop cloths
 - J. Scoop & Scraper
 - K. Plastic self-seal bag

Custody Procedures:

- a. Persons of high risk groups, including homosexual, intravenous drug users, prostitutes, and others, shall be treated with caution. Where violence and an altercation is likely, protective disposable gloves should be worn. Extreme caution should be used during search of suspected drug users or dealers. Officers should tell these subjects to remove all items from their pockets and turn pocket inside out to remove bulky external clothing for closer inspection.
Officers should inquire specifically about needles and sharp items before a search of these subjects is conducted. If the subject admits possession of a needle, or, sharp item, the officers should instruct the subject to remove the item. If the subject refuses, the subject should be physically restrained before the member attempts to remove the item. Officer should conduct a light pat-type search in areas where needles or sharp items may be located before employing a groping type search of the area. A visual inspection of property should be made before officers search the property. Purses, bags, eyeglass cases, or other containers should be emptied and the contents visibly examined before the property is handled. Assume that each subject to be searched may possess a hypodermic needle, razor, blade, pocket knife, or similar small object. As incidental needle sticks represent the most common potentially infections exposure to the law enforcement personnel, officers should use the utmost caution in searching person and property.

2. After the completion of any task or search where protective disposable gloves are utilized, they should be removed with caution, placed in a plastic zipper self-sealing type bag, marked biohazard and securely sealed at the earliest possible time. This sealed bag should be disposed of in a contaminated item receptacle marked "BIOHAZARD"
3. When ever it is necessary to transport or handle a subject who has blood or body fluids present on his/her person or clothing, officers should remember and use precaution intended to protect them from parenteral mucous membrane and non-intact skin exposures to blood borne pathogens.
4. Subjects with blood or body fluids present on their persons should be transported separately from other subjects when possible.
5. Officers have an obligation to inform other support personnel (Sheriff's officers transporting, dispatchers at the LEC, BCA agents & lab personnel, fire fighters, EMS, detox, detention, etc.) whenever a transfer of custody occurs or potential contact will be made and the subject has blood or body fluids present upon his/her person and the subject has made a voluntary statement that he/she has a contagious and/or infectious disease or when this condition is suspected.
6. Officers should indicate on an offense and arrest report or booking form when a subject taken into custody makes a voluntary statement that he/she has an infectious disease; verbatim narratives also will be included when preparing offense reports. Additionally, a notation should be made when a subject has blood or body fluids present on his person or clothing if this person has indicated that he/she has an infectious disease. This information shall be reported to custody personnel at the detention facility or to whoever custody is transferred.
7. Officers responding to a call where a complainant is alleging the he/she has been intentionally infected with an infectious disease shall complete a detailed offense report and advise the complainant to seek medical assistance for decontamination. Complainant must also be advised to call The Crime Victims Reparations Board for more information.
8. Members assisting in any post-mortem work shall be required to wear appropriate protection equipment to reduce the likelihood of exposure to blood borne pathogens and body fluid. This equipment should be requested from the medical facility performing the procedure. If necessary, reimbursement for such equipment will be made by the City of Breckenridge.

Vehicle Maintenance:

- a. Each squad car will carry a number of plastic or paper drop cloths about 4' x 6' which

should be utilized to cover upholstery when transporting a subject who, judging by the present circumstances, is likely to contaminate the upholstery with body fluids. If utilized these drop cloths should be disposed of utilizing plastic bags and by placing in a designated contaminated item receptacle.

- b. Disinfection procedures shall be observed when a vehicle becomes contaminated with blood or body fluid from any subject suspected of having a contagious disease.
- c. Depending on the time of year the vehicle will be taken to a suitable area for disinfecting procedure.
- d. Recommended disinfection procedures are as follows:
 - a. Contact JAM Enterprises and advise them that have a vehicle that is a BIOHAZARD and has been contaminated, giving what ever information you may have concerning blood, vomit, spittle, urine etc. Then request an appointment, as soon as possible to have the vehicle cleaned, deodorized and decontaminated with a broad spectrum active virucidal-germicidal product. You should leave a kit with JAM and pick up the biohazard bag when you pick up the vehicle and place them in the contaminated item receptacle at the LEC. If this arrangement can not be made within a reasonable time (your tour of duty) the officer will clean the vehicle.
 - b. Use protective disposable gloves during all phases of disinfection and decontamination.
 - c. Any excessive blood or, body fluids should first be wiped up with disposable absorbent paper, towel other, disposable absorbent material. All absorbed material and cleaning items will be immediately placed in a plastic bag and put into the designated contaminated receptacle.
 - d. The affected areas should be cleaned with a commercial surgical product such as "Steriphene" or "PD 64" which is a concentrate mixed with water. These products are available, from JAM. A supply of Steriphene, which will freeze, will be kept at the LEC. This product will kill the HIV and Hepatitis virus on contact. It is also non-toxic and can be applied clothing items if necessary. Although PD 64 requires mixing, it will also kill the tuberculosis bacillus.

Handling And Storage Of Property And Evidence:

5. Evidence containing suspected blood or other body fluids shall be handled with protective gloves. If the stain or sample is dry, it should be placed in a paper bag. A proper evidence tag and a special label noting comments should be affixed to the outside of the package. If the evidence consists of a syringe and needle, the needle portion should be made safe in such a mariner, that the sharp point is covered and blunt. The

needle/syringe should be placed in a clear plastic bag or container so that it can be seen by persons handling the evidence. Liquid samples either should be collected as a liquid and stored in a bottle or if located on clothing or similar materials, should be air dried and packaged as described above.

6. Always wash thoroughly with soap and water after handling any items suspected of being contaminated with blood or any other body fluids. Wash even if you have worn gloves.
7. Officers working in areas for extended periods of time where blood or other body fluids have been shed (homicide crime scenes) should wear anti-contamination clothing such as suits, masks, boots, covers and gloves.

The investigator will have a specially made Biohazard “Crime Scene Kit” in his office. In an emergency situation where the crime scene kit can not be picked up quickly, an officer should consider using the full raincoat and gloves found in each vehicle equipment inventory. This Kit will include the following items:

1. Biohazard seals.
 2. Biohazard plastic bags
 3. Biohazard barrier tape
 4. Disposable CPR microshield
 5. Surgeon quality latex gloves
 6. Zippered “Tyvek” coverall with hood and feet
 7. Combination eye, nose, and mouth shield
 8. Biohazard labels
 9. Syringe holder tube
 10. Knife holder tube
 11. Disinfectant anti-microbial towelettes
8. All officers working a crime scene should be acutely aware of all precautions when handling, processing, and storing potentially infectious disease contaminated evidence or property.
 9. Any clothing or evidence that is contaminated with suspected AIDS, Hepatitis B, or other contagious diseases shall be placed in a secure evidence storage and clearly labeled with the above information. The investigator will notify the Chief if any such evidence is in custody.
 10. Evidence from sexual assault, DWI, fatality and drug cases that are no longer necessary for court will be disposed of as a biohazard.

11. All bloody clothing or evidence and sacks containing clothing or evidence shall be handled with protective, disposable gloves.
12. All officers shall wash their hands thoroughly after handling any possible contaminated clothing or other evidence.

Property Contamination

1. When clothing or other Department issued property is contaminated by blood or body fluids in the line of duty, members will place the item(s) in a sealed, plastic bag and contact their supervisor or senior officer on duty. IT shall be the duty of the supervisor or senior officer to determine whether possible infectious disease contaminated items can be effectively disinfected, and if it is determined that this procedure is not practical. This property shall be disposed of following accepted precautions. Members who must change uniform clothing or equipment will make arrangements for this time with the supervisor or senior officer on duty. This may require going home to take a shower.
2. Other non disposable equipment of particular concern are CPR masks used in conjunction life saving efforts . The sterilization or decontamination of these items is a priority. The customary procedure is to wash and then clean with the Steriphene or a solution of PD 64. If equipment is not able to be cleaned it can be discarded with the supervisors approval.

Exposure To Infectious Disease Or Contaminated Materials During Tour/Line Of Duty

1. Documentation will be prepared when members have cause to believe they have had "significant exposure" as defined in MS 144.761, during line of duty activity. Examples of high risk exposure are:
 - A. The handling of bloody or wet items where scratches cuts or open sores are noticed on the area of contact.
 - B. Direct contact with body fluids from a subject on a area where there is an open sore or cut.
 - C. Direct mouth to mouth resuscitation (CPR).
 - D. The receiving of a cut or puncture wound as a result of searching or arresting a subject.
 - E. Other significant exposure.
2. A supervisor will be contacted and a written report detailing the extent of the exposure

will be completed.

3. A City of Breckenridge Injury Report will be completed by the officer, and the EBA report completed by the supervisor and forwarded to the Chief. The Chief will notify the AWAIR officer as required.
4. In addition to other reports required under this policy a Biohazard Report form (see attached) will be completed for each incident where decontamination procedures are used.
5. Officers will comply with notification protocol for exposure to HIV and Hepatitis B as provided in MS 144.762 (complete the significant exposure report form at the hospital as soon as possible).
6. Members shall be evaluated clinically and physiologically for evidence of infection after the exposure as recommended by the Wilkin County Health Department.

Disposal Of Infections Waste And Contaminated Equipment:

1. Members who use the biohazard equipment for decontamination and protection will dispose of these items as instructed.
2. When the contaminated items have been properly bagged they will be placed in the contaminated item receptacle located at the LEC in the locker room and labeled with a Biohazard symbol. The receptacle will be monitored and from time to time be disposed of in the following manner:
 - a. The St Francis Medical Center, (SFMC) , Plant Operations Director, (Head Custodian) must be contacted by phone and informed that we have some biohazardous material for disposal. Arrangements have been made with the supervisor to put our Biohazard items with their hazardous material for transport to an approved destruction site.
 - b. The Biohazard items receptacle will be transported to the SFMC as instructed by the Plant Operations Director, emptied and returned to the LEC. The items may be placed in a Biohazard bag and transported if convenient.