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|  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ALLEGHENY COUNTY<br/>BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS</b></p> | <b>APPLICABILITY: All Authorized Personnel</b>                  |  |
|  | <b>POLICY NUMBER: #106</b>                                      | <b>EFFECTIVE: 7/1/14<br/>REVIEWED: 3/20/20</b> |
|  | <b>TITLE: Infectious Disease Policy<br/>Title 37: 95.248(4)</b> |  |
|  | <b>AUTHORIZED BY: ORLANDO L. HARPER</b>                         |  |
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**POLICY**

It is the policy of the Allegheny County Bureau of Corrections to protect, to the best of our ability, all persons who enter the jail from infectious/communicable diseases while within the facility. Allegheny County Bureau of Corrections shall follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Local Public Health Authority in developing policies to meet this goal.

**PURPOSE**

It is the policy of the Allegheny County Bureau of Corrections to provide guidelines and procedures, when notified of a potential infectious and or communicable disease of an inmate, within the Allegheny County Bureau of Corrections. These guidelines shall be based upon current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Local Public Health Authority guidance.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

Confidentiality, as it relates to health information, is required by law and must be maintained by everyone (inmates, correctional officers, medical staff, volunteers and visitors). Violation of confidentiality may lead to severe disciplinary action, as well as civil legal action. It will also lead to termination of volunteer status.

**DEFINITIONS**

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): equipment and clothing used to protect people from being infected with an infectious/communicable disease. Such equipment is as follows:

1. Mask (surgical, isolation, N 95 respirator)
  2. Clothing to cover, head, body, hands, feet:
    - a. Gloves to cover hands
    - b. Gowns to cover clothing and exposed skin
    - c. Goggles/mask or face shield to cover face (mouth, nose and eyes)
    - d. Hair cover to cover hair
    - e. Shoe covers to cover shoes
- Infectious Disease: a disease resulting from the presence and activity of a pathogenic microbial agent.
  - Isolation: the complete separation from others of a person suffering from a contagious or infectious disease.
  - Quarantine: a strict isolation imposed to prevent the spread of disease

## **PROCEDURES**

Standard Precautions is a philosophy developed by the CDC to protect healthcare workers from exposure to infectious diseases. In the correctional setting, this is applicable to all workers (correctional officers, medical team, volunteers, and other staff). When using Standard Precautions, you assume that anyone you come in contact with MAY have a communicable disease. Based upon this assumption, you try to minimize or eliminate potential exposure. If you are doing something and anticipate your hands getting contaminated with blood or body fluids, put on a pair of gloves. If you anticipate you will be splashed in the face with blood or bloody body fluids, wear a face shield or mask/goggles. If you anticipate your clothing or exposed skin will become contaminated with blood or bloody body fluids, wear a long sleeve gown.

Infectious diseases can occur in anyone (inmate, correctional officer, medical staff, volunteer or visitor). In most infectious diseases, the person is contagious prior to any signs and symptoms of the disease. The medical team can define, with the assistance of the CDC and Local Public Health Authority, the period of contagiousness and the persons exposed in order to provide appropriate follow-up.

Hand hygiene is the essential first step in disease prevention. The two opportunities to perform hand hygiene include:

1. When hands are NOT visibly soiled, a waterless hand hygiene product may be used by coating all surfaces of both hands with the product and allowing it to air dry.
2. When the hands are visibly soiled, then hand hygiene with soap and water is necessary to remove the possible contaminants. Use tepid water (moderately warm), apply soap and scrub all surfaces of hands (backs of hands, between fingers, under finger nails) for 20 seconds. Rinse hands thoroughly with tepid water. Take a paper towel to dry hands and when finished turn off the water with a paper towel and discard. Key principle here is not to use the same paper towel you turn off the water with to dry your hands as it is contaminated with germs from water faucet.

**PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW WHEN NOTIFIED OF AN INFECTED PERSON:**

1. Whenever an employee, contractor, volunteer is advised of an inmate with an infectious/communicable disease, they are to make immediate notification to their supervisor and medical staff.
2. The alleged infected inmate and escort officers will be provided PPE's and transported to the infirmary for further test. The medical team can assist in defining appropriate PPE to be used and by whom. If the inmate is suspected to have an airborne disease (Tuberculosis, Measles, Chicken pox) the inmate should wear a surgical mask to contain secretions. If the inmate has open areas that are draining, then covering the area to contain drainage and having staff wear gloves or other PPE if indicated would be appropriate.
3. The pod in which the inmate is housed will be locked down and no inmate will be allowed to enter or leave the pod, until the medical team has defined the potential infectious agent and determined whether an exposure has occurred.
4. Supervisory staff upon guidance from the medical team and Local Public Health Authority shall review the affected inmates housing history, classes, programs and training to determine whether other pods and areas should be quarantined.

5. All correctional officers working the pod will be provided PPE's, during their tour of duty in the pod as indicated by the disease suspected or identified in the inmate.
6. Health Services Personnel shall advise the ACJ management team whether all inmates, correctional employees, contractors and volunteers that had close proximity with the inmate should be tested for the disease.
7. If emergencies should occur on the pod, during the quarantine, correctional officers will notify their immediate supervisor of the condition. Only the needed amount of correctional officers and medical staff needed to gain control of the emergency will be allowed in the pod with PPE's.