

Section 10: Medical / Mental Health
Subject: Infectious Disease Control Program
Minimum Standard: 5120:1-8-09 (P)
Revised:

Authorized: _____ **Effective date:** _____
Sheriff Paul A. Sigsworth

POLICY

The health authority shall have a written infectious disease control program which collaborates with the local health department and shall include, at minimum an Exposure Control Plan and Standard Isolation Precautions for inmates and staff, which are update annually. The health authority will develop written policy and procedure. Provisions should be made for the screening, surveillance, treatment, containment, and the reporting of infectious diseases. Procedures should be in place for handling bio-hazardous waste and decontaminating medical, dental, and contaminated areas/equipment, which shall comply with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

DEFINITIONS

- A. **Infectious Disease:** A disease that can be transferred from an infected person to another individual. A disease that can be transmitted from one infected organism to another. Infectious Disease can include but not limited to A.I.D.S., Hepatitis, Tuberculosis and M.R.S.A.

- B. **Universal Precautions:** approaches to infectious disease control are designed to prevent transmission of blood-borne diseases, such as AIDS and hepatitis. These guidelines include specific recommendations for use of gloves, masks, and protective eyewear when contact with blood or bodily secretions containing blood or blood elements is anticipated. The protocols used to maintain an aseptic field and to prevent cross-contamination and cross- infection. These include, but are not limited to:
 - a. The isolation and disinfection of the immediate environment
 - b. The use of sterile disposables; scrubbing, masking, gowning, and gloving
 - c. The proper disposal of contaminated waste.

PROCEDURE

- A. Screening
 - 1. Reception
 - a. All inmates will be processed using universal precautions.
 - b. During the reception process the admitting Corrections Officer will ask specific questions relating to infectious diseases from questions on the Preliminary Health (Receiving) Screen.
 - c. If an inmate is admitted with a possible communicable disease the shift supervisor will immediately notify the nurse on duty, or on call nurse if after hours.
 - d. The shift supervisor will properly document all actions and any directions received from the nurse regarding treatment of the inmate
 - e. The inmate will be housed in a holding cell until the medical staff evaluates the inmate.

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2. Testing

- a. A confidential interview shall be performed by the nurse during the Health Appraisal of the inmate.
- b. All inmates received will be screened to determine whether they may be considered from a high risk group for contracting or exposing others to a communicable disease
- c. Inmates who have a history of exposure to a communicable disease shall be interviewed by a medical staff member who may advise of the necessity of further medical attention.
- d. Inmates who show a positive response to a contagious disease test shall receive appropriate follow up medical attention:
 1. All test results shall be maintained in a confidential manner and released only to persons having a medical need to know.
 2. All inmates with a positive infectious disease status will be evaluated to determine the stage of their illness. Appropriate treatment will be provided by the jail physician.
 3. Under certain circumstances, court ordered mandatory testing of persons may be necessary.
- e. Procedure for informing inmates of positive test results of a communicable disease shall be:
 1. Inmates who have had tested positive for any reason shall have their test results maintained in a confidential manner.
 2. Inmates are to be informed of the results by the jail physician or his/her designee. Mental or Medical counseling may be considered at the time the results are given.

B. Surveillance

- a. Inmates who have tested positive for an infectious disease will be evaluated for their need for inpatient care or segregation by the medical director/jail physician.
- b. Positive tested inmates without special medical needs may be housed in the general population.
- c. Any inmate who states he has an infectious disease should be segregated until his/her status and medical needs can be evaluated by the jail physician.
- d. Inmates who have tested positive for a communicable disease and shows constant disregard for the safety of themselves or others may be referred for consideration of administrative segregation.

C. Treatment

- a. The Jail Physician is responsible for providing appropriate medical treatment and determining the stage of the illness.
- b. The Jail Nursing Staff will ensure the physician's orders are followed.

D. Containment

- a. Universal Precautions approaches to infectious disease control are designed to prevent transmission of blood-borne diseases, such as AIDS and hepatitis.

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- b. These guidelines include specific recommendations for use of gloves, masks, and protective eyewear when contact with blood or bodily secretions containing blood or blood elements is anticipated.
- c. The protocols used to maintain an aseptic field and to prevent cross-contamination and cross- infection. These include, but are not limited to:
 - d. The isolation and disinfection of the immediate environment.
 - e. The use of sterile disposables; scrubbing, masking, gowning, and gloving.
 - f. The proper disposal of contaminated waste, which comply with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

E. Reporting

- a. Communication with media regarding infectious diseases will be the responsibility of the Erie County Sheriff with the support of the Erie County Health Department Medical Director and the Community Health Coordinator.