

<b>DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE</b>		<b>Policy and Procedure</b>
<b>Specific Policies</b>		<b>P&amp;P-B-114</b>
<b>Office Member Exposure to Infectious Diseases</b>		
Effective Date: 12-30-14 Supersedes: 11-12-08	Approval: Sheriff	Number of Pages: 3
References: Title 25 CRS	Reevaluation Date: Annually	Standards: ACA 4-ALDF-7E-01

**I. POLICY**

Public safety personnel respond daily to a wide variety of emergency situations. A small percentage of these situations result in exposure to blood or other body fluids that may endanger their health. This policy provides a procedure for reporting and evaluating potential exposure to infectious disease occurring to members of the Office.

This procedure accomplishes the objectives of reporting the incident, evaluating the source person, and providing information to public safety personnel within the framework of existing statutes (Title 25 C.R.S. - Health) and current medical practices, while protecting the confidentiality of medical and public health information. <7E-01>

**II. DEFINITIONS**

***Infectious Diseases***

A disease caused by a microorganism or other agent, such as a bacterium, fungus, or virus that enters the body of an organism. These include Diphtheria, Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (such as Ebola), Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV/AIDS), Meningitis, MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus), Plague, Rabies, and Tuberculosis.

***Exposure***

Contact with blood or other body fluids, sharing the same air space, or having direct contact with droplets from the respiratory tract of a contagious person or other infectious agent.

***Infection***

Evidence exposure has resulted in the presence of viable microorganisms within the body.

***Source Person***

The person who is the source of the microorganisms, whether or not the person is under medical care at the time of exposure.

**III. PROCEDURE**

A. Employees who think they were exposed to blood, body fluids, secretions, or excretions of another, especially someone suspected to be infected with an infectious disease, should as soon as possible, stop working and wash the affected skin surfaces with soap and water. Mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth, etc.) should be irrigated with a large amount of water or eyewash solution.

1. If an exposure occurred while on-duty, the Office member shall notify their supervisor of the circumstances, and follow established Douglas County Risk Management procedures on work injuries. The member shall be transported to an approved medical facility for examination to determine the possibility of infection. The medical authority shall document the results in a written report and perform baseline tests when medically appropriate. If no exposure or infection has occurred, the physician will explain this to the member. No testing of the source person or further follow-up is indicated. A second opinion is at the member's expense.
- B. If a potential infection occurred, the following procedures shall be initiated:
1. If the Office member is under the care of the same physician as the source person (e.g. same emergency room physician), the physician will assess the source person for suspected infectious diseases and order appropriate tests with the consent of the source person. The physician will document as to whether consent was obtained or refused by the source person.
  2. If the Office member is not under the care of the same physician as the source person, the member's supervisor, working with the Douglas County Risk Manager, will notify the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). The CDPHE will investigate the case and follow-up with the source person's physician or directly with the source person.
  3. If the source person tests negative the emergency room physician or CDPHE will notify the Office member and the Office that an infection did not occur and that no further follow-up is indicated.
  4. If the source person tests positive, the member and the Office will be advised to undergo diagnostic testing to determine if the exposure resulted in infection.
  5. In all cases of exposure or infection, the member shall follow the instructions prescribed by medical authorities.
  6. The CDCHP will notify the member in confidence of the results of the diagnostic testing performed on the source person and will assist the member in obtaining counseling.
- C. The Office supervisor may contact an officer of the CDCHP to determine whether circumstances of the incident pose a serious risk of exposure or disease. This office is on call 24 hours a day. Routine consultation may be obtained by calling 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.
- D. The Sheriff's Office will maintain the confidentiality of personal medical information of all parties. State statute protects this information.

#### **IV. WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

If the incident occurred while on-duty, the member's supervisor is responsible for completion and dissemination of the Workers' Compensation forms.

#### **V. OFF-DUTY EXPOSURE**

If an infectious disease exposure occurs while off-duty the member shall report the incident to his immediate supervisor. The supervisor will make the appropriate documentation and follow-up with the member.

By Order of the Sheriff