



IC70

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

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POLICY

1. The risk to employees of the Delta Police Department (Department) with respect to infection from communicable diseases, will be addressed through relevant information and equipment required to carry out duties safely.
2. All employees who believe that they have been exposed to an infectious disease, while on duty, will seek medical assistance and report the suspected exposure to a supervisor as soon as possible.

REASON FOR POLICY

3. To provide for the safety and well-being of Department employees with respect to infectious diseases.

PROCEDURES

General

4. Some examples of potential communicable diseases are:
 - a) Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV);
 - b) Hepatitis B Virus (HBV);



- c) Hepatitis C Virus (HCV);
 - d) Meningococcal Diseases; and
 - e) Tuberculosis (TB)
5. The following may contain the HIV virus:
- a) blood and/or body fluids visibly contaminated with blood;
 - b) saliva visibly contaminated with blood;
 - c) pleural, amniotic, pericardial, peritoneal, synovial and cerebrospinal fluids;
 - d) tissues and organs;
 - e) uterine/vaginal secretions or semen;
 - f) breast milk;
 - g) inflammatory exudate; and
 - h) saliva (degree to which transmission of the virus can occur is uncertain).

Aids/Hepatitis

- 6. Blood, semen or vaginal fluid from a person previously infected with the Aids virus may contain the virus.
- 7. Many Aids virus infected people do not show any signs of disease and many are not aware that they have been infected.
- 8. The Aids virus does not penetrate healthy skin.
- 9. There is a risk of acquiring infection by accidental puncture with contaminated sharp objects such as needles. Broken skin contacting contaminated body fluid can be a risk for a member.
- 10. HIV, although a serious infection, is not the only one transmitted by blood. The Hepatitis B/C viruses are both more prevalent and contagious.
- 11. HBV may be transmitted by:



- a) blood and/or body fluid contaminated with blood;
 - b) saliva visibly contaminated with blood;
 - c) pleural, amniotic, pericardial, peritoneal, synovial and cerebrospinal fluids;
 - d) tissues and organs;
 - e) uterine/vaginal secretions or semen;
 - f) saliva; or
 - g) breast milk (degree to which transmission of virus can occur is uncertain).
12. HCV can be transmitted by:
- a) blood and/or body fluid visibly contaminated with blood;
 - b) saliva visibly contaminated with blood;
 - c) pleural, amniotic fluid, pericardial, synovial and cerebrospinal fluids;
 - d) tissues and organs;
 - e) uterine/vaginal secretions or semen;
 - f) breast milk; or
 - g) saliva (degree to which transmission of the virus can occur is uncertain).
13. The following are standard precautions when handling objects potentially contaminated with HIV, HBV and HCV:
- a) wear disposable gloves until the objects have been decontaminated;
 - b) wash hands after disposing of gloves with soap and water;
 - c) if a procedure is likely to produce splashing, protective clothing (disposable coveralls) and face protection should be worn in addition to gloves;
 - d) decontamination is achieved by:



- i) wiping away excess blood, fluid or crusting with disposable paper or cloth and placing same in moisture proof bag, and
 - ii) wiping objects with 1:10 dilution of household bleach (sodium hypochlorite) or any of the commercial germicidal agents,
- e) dispose of contaminated items, in a moisture proof container, which may be discarded with general city refuse;
 - f) persons with open skin wounds or weeping skin diseases should avoid skin contact with all blood or body fluids;
 - g) avoid being pricked by sharp contaminated objects;
 - h) sharp objects should be disposed of in puncture-proof containers;
 - i) never recap needles;
 - j) minimize mouth-to-mouth resuscitation by, whenever possible, using resuscitation devices;
 - k) if skin contamination should occur, wash the area thoroughly with soap and water; and
 - l) if clothing or other objects are suspected of being contaminated, they should be labeled 'blood/body fluid precautions' for the assistance and protection of other workers who may have to handle them.

Cures & Treatment

- 14. There is no cure for HIV infection or AIDS at this time. Several drugs have been developed recently that taken in combination with other drugs slow the progress of HIV but so far none of them is a cure.
- 15. Prevention against HBV involves immunization with a vaccine. This vaccine is offered to members of the Department for their protection. There is no effective drug for long-term treatment of HBV.
- 16. Treatment for HCV exists but is in the early stages of development. Anyone with HCV should take care to avoid any other causes of liver damage, such as caused by alcohol use.



Transmission

- 17. Feces, nasal secretions, tears, urine, sweat and vomit are not implicated in the method of transmission for blood borne infectious agents unless visibly contaminated with blood.
- 18. Meningococcal Diseases can be transmitted from one person to another via air and cause disease. Respiratory secretions from coughing or sneezing and direct contact with articles contaminated with respiratory secretions transmit this disease. When dealing with infected parties not only use standard precautions but also wear a mask. When possible, request that the infected person wear a mask.
- 19. Tuberculosis is transmitted by respiratory secretions from talking, sneezing and coughing. When dealing with an infected person, not only use standard precautions but also wear a mask. When possible request that the infected person wear a mask.
- 20. For more information on communicable diseases, view fraserhealth.ca website.

Disposal of Contaminated Items

- 21. Items contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIMS) must be disposed of in biohazard containers to prevent possible transmission of communicable diseases.
- 22. The following biohazard containers, for proper disposal of contaminated or possibly contaminated items, have been placed at Delta Police buildings in the following locations:
 - a) Headquarters:
 - i) Patrol Report Room – one large yellow Biohazard Bucket, one large yellow Sharps Collector container,
 - ii) Cell Block – one large yellow Sharps Collector container,
 - iii) back door by Briefing Room – one large yellow Sharps Collector container, and
 - iv) Exhibits – one large yellow Biohazard Bucket, one small yellow Sharps Collector container;



- b) Public Safety Building:
 - i) Patrol Report Room – one large yellow Biohazard Bucket, one large yellow Sharps Collector container,
 - ii) Cell Block – one large yellow Sharps Collector container, and
 - iii) Garage/Exhibits Room – one large yellow Sharps Collector container; and
 - c) CoPS Offices:
 - i) North Delta CoPS Office – one large yellow Sharps Collector container,
 - ii) Ladner CoPS Office – one large yellow Sharps Collector container, and
 - iii) Tsawwassen CoPS office – one medium yellow Sharps Collector container.
23. All needles and other small sharp items are to be disposed of in the yellow Sharps Collector containers.
24. Only items that have come into physical contact with, or may have come into contact with, blood or OPIMS are to be disposed of in the large yellow Biohazard Buckets.
25. Once containers are nearly full, members of Emergency Planning Section are to be notified by email so the container can be disposed of at Delta Hospital and replaced.
26. Emergency Planning Section members will conduct quarterly inspections of all of the biohazard containers.

*Revised Dates:
15 May 2012
21 January 2015