
	SALISBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT
	Written Directive: Communicable Diseases
	Publication Date: February 14, 2018
	 Approved: Barbara Duncan, Chief of Police
Related CALEA Standards: 22.2.2, 22.2.3, 83.2.1, 31.5.6	Communicable Diseases Section #233

Communicable Disease

1. Policy:

It is the policy of the department to continuously provide employees with information and education on prevention of these diseases provide up-to-date safety equipment and procedures that will minimize their risks of exposure and to institute post exposure reporting, evaluation and treatment for all employees exposed to these diseases.

2. Purpose:

It is the responsibility of this department to take all reasonable measures to allow its employees to perform their duties in a safe and effective manner. The safe performance of daily operations is threatened by the AIDS and hepatitis viruses that can be contracted through exposure to infected blood and several types of bodily secretions.

3. Communicable Disease

- A. When exposed to a possible communicable disease or the victim of a human bite incident, employees should exercise caution and, whenever possible, wear disposable latex gloves when doing any of the following:
 - a) Handling items which may contain contaminated blood or body fluid products (hypodermic needles, syringes, etc.);
 - b) Searching arrestees;
 - c) Packaging and handling these items as evidence;
 - d) Cleaning up blood or other secretions which may have contaminated floors, seats, equipment, etc; and
 - e) Placing fingers in anyone's mouth, which should be avoided, if possible.
- B. After removing gloves, employees should wash their hands with hot water and soap and other parts of the body and soiled clothing which may have been

contaminated with secretions, excretions or exposed to blood, saliva or controlled dangerous substances such as fentanyl.

- C. Masks are only needed if exposure of mouth to blood or saliva is likely. If possible, use a pocket mask when administering CPR.
- D. If receiving a percutaneous wound or other exposure to a communicable disease, immediately notify the squad commander of the incident and seek immediate medical attention at the nearest medical center. Situations which would constitute a percutaneous exposure include being stuck with a hypodermic needle, knife, or other sharp object; being exposed to an open wound of mucous membrane (eyes or mouth); or exposure to the blood, saliva, or semen of a person with hepatitis B, AIDS or infections caused by the AIDS virus.

4. Human Bites:

- A. If the victim of a human bite, immediately:
 - a) Encourage the wound to bleed by applying pressure and “milk” the wound;
 - b) Wash the area thoroughly with soap and hot water;
 - c) Seek immediate medical attention at the nearest hospital;
 - d) Complete a detailed written report concerning any suspected exposures to a communicable disease or human bite incident. Forward the written report to the chief of police will ensure that a copy that a copy of the report is sent to the department physician.
- B. Supervisors/Squad Commanders
 - a) Will ensure that any arrestee who has bitten a member of this department is asked to submit to a blood test.
 - b) They will also ensure that any reports regarding exposure to a communicable disease or human bite is forwarded to the chief of police and the department physician within 24 hours of the incident. The report should include whether or not the person submitted to a blood test. If the blood test was refused, the administrative commander will immediately contact the state's attorney to initiate the action required to make the person submit to the blood test. A copy of the pertinent report shall be forwarded to the state's attorney by the next work day.
 - c) When a person with known communicable disease is transported in department vehicle or is placed in the holding room, custodial personnel will be notified of the situation and they will be requested to thoroughly clean the holding room or department vehicle, with a cleaning solution provided by the quartermaster

5. Evidence:

A. All contaminated evidentiary items shall be placed in an evidence envelope and sealed with evidence tape. The evidence envelope shall be clearly marked - "contains possible contaminated items". When handling items that may be contaminated, members are to wear appropriate disposable gloves or gowns.

B. Department Physician

The department physician and state's attorney's office will coordinate any necessary medical testing of suspected carriers of a contagious disease and any necessary testing/treatment of members of this department.

C. Quartermaster Responsibilities

The quartermaster will ensure that an adequate supply of disposable gloves is maintained in all police vehicles and in the booking area. He/she will ensure that special containers are provided for the disposal of all contaminated gloves. These containers shall be clearly marked and properly disposed of whenever necessary. He will ensure that an adequate supply of cleaning solution is available for use by custodial personnel.