

City of Johns Creek Police Department

<i>Subject:</i> Exposure to Communicable Disease	<i>Number:</i> 02-17
<i>Reference:</i>	<i>Amends:</i>
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PURPOSE:

Provide guidelines for employees in limiting their exposure to and preventing the contraction of communicable diseases.

DEFINITIONS:

Body Fluids - Liquid secretions, including blood, semen and vaginal or other secretions that might contain these fluids such as saliva, vomit, urine or feces.

Communicable Disease - Infectious illnesses that are transmitted through contact with the body fluids of an infected individual.

POLICY: (02-17)

The Department will continuously provide employees with up-to-date communicable disease information and safety procedures to assist in minimizing potential exposure, while increasing their understanding of the nature and potential risks of communicable diseases.

PROCEDURES:

Communicable Disease Prevention (02-17-01)

- A. In order to minimize potential exposure to communicable diseases, employees should assume all persons are potential carriers of a communicable disease.
- B. Disposable gloves shall be worn when handling any persons, clothing or equipment with body fluids on them.
- C. Masks and protective eyewear shall be worn where body fluids may be splashed.
- D. Plastic mouthpieces or other authorized barrier/resuscitation devices shall be used whenever an officer performs CPR or mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
- E. All sharp instruments such as knives, scalpels and needles shall be handled with extraordinary care, and should be considered contaminated items.
 1. Employees shall not place their hands in areas where sharp instruments are

- suspected of being hidden. An initial visual search of the suspected area should be conducted, using a flashlight where necessary. A suspect should also be asked to remove any sharp objects from his/her person.
2. Needles shall not be recapped, bent, broken, removed from a disposable syringe or otherwise manipulated by hand.
 3. Needles shall be placed in a puncture resistant container when being collected for evidence or disposal purposes.
- F. Employees shall not smoke, eat, drink or apply make-up around body fluid spills.
- G. Any evidence contaminated with body fluids will be double bagged and marked with a red biohazard sticker.

Transport and Custody (02-17-02)

- A. Employees shall not put their fingers in or near any person's mouth.
- B. Persons with body fluids on their persons shall be transported in separate vehicles from other individuals.
- C. Officers have an obligation to notify relevant support personnel during a transfer of custody when the suspect has body fluids present on his/her person, or have stated he/she has a communicable disease.
- D. Officers shall document on the appropriate arrest or incident form when a suspect taken into custody has body fluids on his/her person, or has stated he/she has a communicable disease.
- F. Officers will ask any suspects in custody if they have any communicable diseases.

Disinfection (02-17-03)

- A. Any unprotected skin surfaces that come into contact with body fluids shall be immediately and thoroughly washed with hot running water and soap. Alcohol or antiseptic towelettes may be used where soap and water are unavailable.
- B. Officers should remove clothing that has been contaminated with body fluids as soon as practical. Any contacted skin area should then be cleansed in the prescribed fashion. Contaminated clothing should be handled carefully and laundered in the normal fashion.
- C. Disinfection procedures shall be initiated whenever body fluids are spilled, or an individual with body fluids on his/her person is transported in a Department vehicle. This procedure will also apply to the Detention Center.
- D. Non-disposable equipment and areas upon which body fluids have been spilled shall be disinfected as follows:
 1. Any excess of body fluids should be first wiped up with approved disposable absorbent materials.
 2. A freshly prepared solution of one part bleach to 10 parts water or a fungicidal/mycobactericidal disinfectant shall be used to clean the area or equipment.
- E. All disposable equipment, cleaning materials or evidence contaminated with body fluids shall be bagged and disposed of in compliance with state law provisions for disposal of biologically hazardous waste material.
- F. All contaminated materials should be disposed of at the Fire Department.

Supplies (02-17-04)

- A. Supervisors are responsible for continuously maintaining and storing in a convenient location an adequate amount of communicable disease control supplies for their unit.
- B. Supervisors are responsible for dissemination of supplies for infectious disease control.
- C. All Department vehicles shall be continuously stocked with the following communicable disease control supplies:
 - 1. Disposable gloves.
 - 2. Barrier resuscitation equipment goggles and masks.
 - 3. Liquid germicidal cleaner.
- D. Officers using supplies stored in police vehicles are responsible for their immediate replacement.

Line of Duty Exposures to Communicable Diseases (02-17-05)

- A. Any employee who has been bitten by a person, or who has had physical contact with body fluids of another person while in the line of duty shall be considered to have been exposed to a communicable disease.
- B. A supervisor shall be contacted and all appropriate duty injury and medical forms shall be completed.