



SUBJECT

CONTAGIOUS DISEASE RISK

NUMBER

402/11

EFFECTIVE DATE:

09-25-09

AMENDS:


08-14-08

RESCINDS:

DISTRIBUTION: Administration, CID, Patrol, Communications, Clerical

**REFERENCES:
CALEA / IACLEA / TPCFA**

- .10 Because Officers work in environments that provide unpredictable risks of exposure and possible acquisition of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) or Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) from contact with contaminated devices, objects, surfaces, or transmission of an infectious agent from another person, living or dead, the creation and compliance of this policy is essential.
- .11 The procedures set forth in this policy will be reinforced with periodic training programs designed to give informative updated material and guidance concerning contagious disease risks and preventative measures for avoiding infection of contagious diseases. Additionally, Officers will be required to demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and use of equipment and supplies provided for the various situations where an Officer may risk contamination through the handling of prisoners, injured persons, or the processing of crime scenes.
- .20 Officers dispatched to provide police services are to be aware that any person can be infected with a contagious disease and should be assumed to be infectious for HIV/HBV and other blood-borne pathogens, thus the development of guidelines (listed herein) for work practices, use of personal protective equipment, and other protective measures.
- .21 To minimize the risks of acquiring HIV/HBV during performance of job duties; Officers should be protected from exposure to blood and other body fluids as circumstances dictate. Protection can be achieved through adherence to this policy, which is designed to minimize or eliminate exposure, and through the use of personal protective equipment (i.e. gloves, masks, and protective clothing), which provide a barrier between the Officer and the exposure source.
- .22 The Patrol Office and every police unit designated as a response unit or evidence unit will be supplied with kits containing the listed equipment and supplies;

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A. FIRST AID KIT

1. Blood/body substance barriers (coveralls, shoe covers, surgical mask)
2. Latex and vinyl gloves
3. Alcohol/germicidal wipes
4. CPR barrier equipment
5. Goggles
6. Paper towels
7. Hand sanitizer solution
8. Instruction sheet for contents

B. DISINFECTANT KIT FOR CLEAN UP

1. Latex and vinyl gloves
2. One (1) clear disposable bag and one (1) red disposable bag marked "CONTAMINATED".
3. Liquid hospital disinfectant (Tuberculocidal)
4. Paper towels
5. Hand sanitizer solution and alcohol wipes
6. Puncture resistant container
7. Instruction sheet for contents

.23 It will be the responsibility of Officers using any equipment or supplies to disinfect reusable equipment and to replenish the kits with supplies which had been used. It will be the responsibility of the Patrol Supervisor to check both kits during routine monthly inspections to determine replacement needs based on use, expiration date or other factors. A special notation will be made on the Vehicle Inspection Report indicating findings during inspection of the kits.

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- .30 Officers having non-intact skin (open cuts, sores, eczema, etc.) will ensure that those areas will be covered with a waterproof dressing or similar barrier prior to reporting for duty. The waterproof dressing or barriers will be changed as soon as possible if it gets soiled or wet.
- .31 Officers having unprotected non-intact skin or who are pregnant will be prohibited from entering crime scenes where blood or other body fluids are present. Additionally, Officers who are taking medication, which in any way suppresses the immune system, are prohibited from entering crime scenes where blood or other body fluids are present.
- .32 Under no circumstances will Officers smoke, eat, drink, or apply make-up while processing prisoners and crime or accident scenes until all protective equipment/ barriers have been removed and personal clean-up and disinfections procedures have been completed.
- .33 Latex or vinyl gloves will always be worn when blood or other body fluids are present. If the gloves get heavily soiled during exposure to body fluids they should be removed and a fresh pair of gloves applied. When removing contaminated gloves pull them off so they are inside out, the contaminated side not exposed, and place them in the red disposable bag marked "CONTAMINATED" for disposal. Never use teeth to remove or apply gloves.
- .34 If cotton gloves are to be worn when working with evidence of potential latent print value at the crime scene, they can be worn over latex or vinyl gloves when exposure to blood or body fluids may occur.
- .35 Investigators should defend against possible infection at crime scenes by keeping hands clean and away from eyes, mouth, and nose. Plastic or protective coveralls and protective footwear covering should be worn to avoid contamination.



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- .36 Surgical masks and protective eye wear is to be worn when the possibility exists that dried blood may strike the face or eyes when scraping dried blood which may become airborne and contact the skin.
- .37 Always carry a flashlight, even during daylight hours, to search hidden areas. Whenever possible, use long handled mirrors and flashlights to search hidden areas.
- .38 To avoid tearing gloves use evidence tape instead of metal staples to seal evidence.
- .39 When it becomes necessary that an Officer perform Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) on a person the Officer will utilize the air mask with the one-way valve attached. The CPR mask will act as a barrier to prevent contact with blood or other body fluids which may be expelled from the victim's mouth, nose or stomach areas.
- .40 Decontamination is achieved by thoroughly cleansing items with a decontamination solution (Hospital disinfectant), sanitizing solution or alcohol wipes. Always remember to wear vinyl or latex gloves when decontaminating.
- .41 Hands and other skin surfaces should be washed immediately and thoroughly if contaminated with blood or other body fluids. Hands should always be washed after gloves are removed, even if the gloves appear to be intact. Hand washing should be completed using the appropriate facilities, such as a utility or restroom sink. When hand-washing facilities are available, wash hands with warm water and soap. When hand-washing facilities are not available, use the sanitizing solution or alcohol wipes.
- .42 All non-disposable items such as cameras, tools, notebooks, etc. must be decontaminated after use at a crime scene where blood or other body fluids are present. Decontamination is achieved by thoroughly cleansing items with a decontamination solution or alcohol wipes.

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- .43 All spills of blood and other body fluids should be promptly cleaned with the decontamination solution while wearing gloves. Visible material should first be removed with disposable towels or other appropriate means that will ensure against direct contact with blood or other body fluids. If splashing is anticipated, protective eyewear should be worn along with substance barrier coveralls. The area should then be cleaned with the decontamination solution. Soiled cleaning equipment should be cleaned and decontaminated or placed in the red disposable bag marked "CONTAMINATED" to be disposed of at the designated disposal site.
- .44 Shoes and boots can become contaminated with blood and other body fluids in certain instances. Where there is massive body fluid contamination on floors, the use of disposable shoe coverings is appropriate. Shoe coverings are disposed of in the same manner as other soiled cleaning equipment.
- .45 Officers whose uniform or clothing becomes contaminated with blood or other body fluids should change into a clean uniform or clothing as soon as possible. Contaminated clothing should be handled carefully. Wash once with cold water to remove gross contamination and then wash in hot water to disinfect and sterilize.
- .46 To prevent accidental needle-stick injuries, needles should not be recapped. Purposely bent or broken, removed from disposable syringes, or otherwise manipulated by hand. Syringes and needles and other sharp items are to be put into the puncture proof containers for disposal or retention if of evidentiary value.
- .47 Officers are responsible for notifying property owners or their custodians where blood or other body fluids are present after a crime scene investigation of the potential infection risk prior to releasing the crime scene. Then there is not a property owner or custodian available a written notice of the potential infection risk should be prepared and left in a conspicuous location prior to departure.



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- .48 Property owners or their custodians will be advised that decontamination may be achieved by mixing one (1) cup of Sodium Hypo chlorite (Common household bleach) in one (1) gallon of water or use a seventy percent (70%) alcohol solution to clean spills of blood or other body fluids from floors or other surfaces.

- .50 Officers should use extreme caution in searching the clothing of prisoners or suspects. Individual discretion, based on the circumstances at hand, should determine if a suspect or prisoner should empty his own pockets or if the Officer should use his own skills in determining the contents of their clothing.

- .51 If searching a purse, carefully empty the contents directly from the purse, by turning it upside down over a table or other flat surface.

- .52 Disposable gloves will be worn when searching prisoners when blood or other body fluids are present on prisoners or their clothing.

- .53 Prisoner areas such as back seats and holding cells that have been contaminated with blood or other body fluids should be decontaminated using prescribed decontamination procedures.

- .60 Because the presence of infectious or communicable disease is presumed at the time disposable equipment or supplies are utilized. supplies or equipment are not indiscriminately discarded at the scene of an event or disposed of in any way that might facilitate casual contact by any person.

- .61 Gloves, germicidal hand wipes, gowns and other protective materials are disposed of properly after use by sealing in non-porous plastic bags marked "CONTAMINATED" and placed in the evidence locker and secured until Criminal Investigation Officers can arrange to have the contaminated articles incinerated at a medical facility or laboratory.

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- .70 Anytime an Officer is bitten, scratched, stuck with a needle or cut with a sharp object, he should encourage the wound to bleed by "milking" or "squeezing" the area around the wound. The affected area should be washed with soap and water and cleaned with an alcohol swab or skin antiseptic.
- .71 Officers should follow established procedures for reporting injuries as set forth in Section [502/12 Duty Related Injury](#) of this Manual.