

MADISON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

NUMBER: GNF 17	ISSUED: 7-2007
POLICY: Infection Control / Exposure Control Plan	REVISED: REVIEWED: 07-06-2010; 1/2012

SCOPE OF PRACTICE: All Staff

PURPOSE: The Agency shall maintain policies and procedures for the protection of its employees in relation to infection control practices.

POLICY: If an employee or visitor is known or suspected to have an infectious or contagious process, the Agency personnel shall be advised and shall implement the procedures specific to the suspected disease. The Agency will provide the employees with appropriate protective equipment which may include gloves, gowns or aprons, masks, eye protection, and face shields.

PROCEDURE:

1. Employee infection control procedures shall include:
 - a. wearing and changing gloves as necessary during delivery of client care
 - b. appropriate client wound and skin care and dressing techniques following sterile or aseptic dressing procedures
 - c. appropriate handling and disposal of waste products
 - d. proper packaging of laboratory specimens of blood and other infectious materials
 - e. The Agency will utilize sharps containers for disposal of needles
 - f. frequent handwashing by all employees:
 - before and after direct client care
 - after handling soiled or contaminated materials
 - after going to the toilet
 - after removing gloves
 - g. covering nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing
 - h. covering open sores or cuts on fingers or hands with clean bandages or gloves

- i. use of appropriate protective equipment including gloves, gowns, and masks when indicated
2. All materials related to **OSHA** (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) regulations and all Agency infection control activities shall be incorporated into an infection control plan which includes:
 - a. Outline for employee education
 - b. Universal precautions
 - c. Documentation of investigation of exposure incidents and infection occurrences
 - d. Contracts for infection control related services such as waste disposal
 - e. The Agency shall maintain procedures for the care of clients with infectious and/or contagious disease, as well as those clients with compromised immunity
 - f. Employees providing client care shall comply with the Agency's health requirement for periodic examination and disease screening. Employees with a known or suspected infectious and/or contagious disease shall be restricted from providing client care until a statement is received from the employee's physician stating the employee is free from contagious diseases and is able to return to work.
 - g. The Agency shall be aware of and comply with all state requirements for the reporting of communicable diseases.

EMPLOYEE PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:

1. The Agency shall provide to all employees at no cost appropriate protective equipment, which may include, but not limited to, gloves, gowns or aprons, masks, eye protection, and face shields.
2. Hypoallergenic supplies shall be made available to allergic employees.
3. Gloves, gowns, aprons, and other protective equipment shall be worn at any time an employee is at risk of occupational exposure.

Reference: