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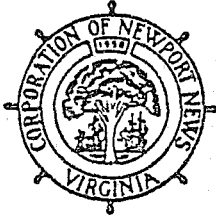
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Policy & Procedure

No. 0143 | 1 of 4 pgs

Subject: *Exposure to Infectious Diseases*

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I. INTRODUCTION

Law enforcement officers have real concerns about AIDS and other infectious diseases. Many law enforcement activities involve contact with persons or items which may be infected with diseases such as hepatitis-B or the AIDS virus. Common concerns involve searches, assaultive behavior, bites, evidence handling, CPR, and contact with injured or deceased persons. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for personnel when exposed to these situations.

II. POLICY

Personnel will exercise caution and utilize established procedures when performing those duties that present the potential of contracting an infectious disease.

III. PROCEDURE

A. CPR/First Aid

To eliminate the already minimal risk associated with CPR, use the issued disposable microshield mouth barrier. Avoid blood-to-blood contact by keeping open wounds covered and wearing gloves when in contact with bleeding wounds.

B. Body Removal/Crime Scene

Observe crime scene rule: Do Not Touch Anything. Those who must come into contact with blood or other body fluids should wear disposable rubber gloves.

C. Cuts/Puncture Wounds

Use caution in handling sharp objects and searching areas hidden from view. Needle-stick studies show risk of infection is very low. Seek medical attention for such injuries.

D. Human Bites

The person who bites is typically the one who gets the blood. Viral transmission through saliva is highly unlikely. If bitten by anyone, "milk" the wound to make it bleed, wash the area thoroughly and seek medical attention.

E. Spitting

Viral transmission (AIDS) through saliva is highly unlikely. If contact is made, wash affected areas thoroughly.

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ACQUISITIONS

F. *Urine/Feces*

Virus isolated in only very low concentrations in urine; not at all in feces. No cases of AIDS or Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection associated with either urine or feces. If contact is made, wash affected areas thoroughly.

G. *Any contact with blood or body fluids, wash thoroughly with soap and water. Clean up spills with 1:9 solution of household bleach and water.*

H. *All personnel shall familiarize themselves with the latest information contained in the AIDS Fact Sheet (Addendum I)*

END OF POLICY NUMBER 0143



Jay A. Carey, Jr.
Chief of Police

AIDS FACT SHEET

1. *AIDS is not easy to catch and is not spread by casual contact. Fear among people who are not in a high risk group is unwarranted and counter-productive.*

The AIDS virus is transmitted in blood cells and semen and must enter the blood stream to survive and multiply. It is a venereal type disease and can be spread by both homosexual and heterosexual contact. Anal sex is considered very risky and oral sex may be risky.

The AIDS virus is very fragile and does not live long outside the body. When compared to Hepatitis B, which can live up to 20 hours, the AIDS virus dies in approximately 6 minutes.

2. *The evidence is overwhelming that AIDS is transmitted primarily by sexual acts between consenting individuals or by sharing drug abuse paraphernalia. However, there is a slight possibility of transmission by:*
 - a. *Receiving blood transfusion (becoming rarer because of blood test to detect AIDS HTLV-III virus).*
 - b. *Infected mother to fetus during pregnancy and/or from an infected mother through nursing her infant.*
 - c. *Accidental needle-stick, cuts, abrasions and mucous membrane (eyes & mouth) exposure to blood or other body fluids of an infected person.*
3. *For protection it is necessary to build a self help barrier. The skin is the greatest protection against infections and transmissible diseases. Open wounds should be covered while at work. A bandage or dressing should be changed if it becomes wet or soiled. A fresh sore can possibly give the virus a means of entry if exposed to infected blood or body fluids. It is important to protect the hands especially if open cuts or wounds are present. Wear disposable gloves when in contact with body fluids of others.*

If there is a possibility of contact with body fluids, such as at the Coroner's Office during autopsy, eye coverings, masks and gowns are available and should be used.

When accidents occur in the workplace and equipment or vehicles are contaminated with blood or other body fluids from any person, whether infected or not, the area should be disinfected with bleach and water and then cleaned with soap or detergent. Wash hands or exposed area thoroughly and immediately if accidentally contaminated with any amount of blood or body fluid. Washing hands after contact with any material that could contaminate is advisable.

If blood or body fluids contaminates clothing use a packaged alcohol wipe as soon as possible. Contaminated clothing should be laundered or cleaned by:

- a. Washable fabrics should be laundered in a Pinesol solution or bleach solution if the fabric is compatible with bleach.
 - b. Blood and body fluid stains in fabrics requiring dry cleaning should be diluted in cold water and placed in a plastic bag prior to cleaning.
4. Use extraordinary care while conducting searches of vehicles, suspects/arrestees, homes, etc. Never blindly place hands in areas where there may be sharp objects that could puncture the skin.
- To prevent needle-stick injuries do not try to recap or otherwise manipulate a needle or syringe by hand.
5. There is a small risk of transmission if a knife, sharp instrument or other object contaminated with blood is handled and breaks the skin.
6. There is no evidence that AIDS is spread through any of the following:
- a. Sneezing, coughing or spitting.
 - b. Handshakes or other non-sexual physical contact.
 - c. Toilet seats, bathtubs or showers.
 - d. Various utensils, dishes or linens used by a person with AIDS.
 - e. Articles handled or worn by a person with AIDS.
 - f. Being around someone with AIDS on a daily basis or over a long period of time.
 - g. Riding in the same transportation.
 - h. Eating in the same public places or with an AIDS patient.
 - i. Working in the same office, shop, etc.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

National Institute of Justice Handbook: AIDS and the Law Enforcement Officer