



Approved:

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Subject:

871. Communicable Diseases

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871.1: PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides general guidelines to assist in minimizing the risk of department members contracting and/or spreading communicable diseases.

871.1.1: DEFINITIONS

Communicable Disease – A human disease caused by microorganisms that are present in and transmissible through human blood, bodily fluid, tissue, or by breathing or coughing. These diseases commonly include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B virus (HBV), HIV and tuberculosis.

Exposure – When an eye, mouth, mucous membrane or non-intact skin comes into contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials, or when these substances are injected or infused under the skin; when an individual is exposed to a person who has a disease that can be passed through the air by talking, sneezing or coughing (e.g., tuberculosis), or the individual is in an area that was occupied by such a person. Exposure only includes those instances that occur due to a member's position at the Albany Police Department.

871.2: POLICY

It is the policy of the Albany Police Department to provide a safe work environment for its members, but members should be aware that they are ultimately responsible for their own health and safety.

871.3: EXPOSURE CONTROL OFFICER

- a. The Chief of Police will assign a person as the Exposure Control Officer (ECO). The ECO shall develop an [Exposure Control Plan](#) that includes:
 - 1) Exposure-prevention and decontamination procedures;
 - 2) Procedures for when and how to obtain medical attention in the event of an exposure or suspected exposure;
 - 3) The provision that department members will have no-cost access to the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) (e.g., gloves, face masks, eye protection, pocket masks) for each

member's position and risk of exposure;

- 4) Evaluation of persons in custody for any exposure risk and measures to separate them;
- 5) Compliance with all relevant laws or regulations related to communicable diseases, including:
 - A. Complying with the Oregon Safe Employment Act ([ORS 654.001 et seq.](#)).
 - B. Responding to requests and notifications regarding exposures covered under the Ryan White law ([42 USC § 300ff-133; 42 USC § 300ff-136](#)).
 - C. Exposure control mandates in [29 CFR 1910.1030](#) including bloodborne pathogen precautions ([OAR 437-002-0360](#)).
- b. The ECO should also act as the liaison with the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OR-OSHA), who may request voluntary compliance inspections.
- c. The ECO should annually review and update the Exposure Control Plan and review implementation of the plan.

871.4: EXPOSURE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION

871.4.1: GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

All members are expected to use good judgment and follow training and procedures related to mitigating the risks associated with communicable disease. This includes, but is not limited to (29 CFR 1910.1030; OAR 437-002-0360):

- a. Stocking disposable gloves, antiseptic hand cleanser, CPR masks or other specialized equipment in the work area or department vehicles, as applicable;
 - b. Wearing department-approved disposable gloves when contact with blood, other potentially infectious materials, mucous membranes and non-intact skin can be reasonably anticipated;
 - c. Washing hands immediately or as soon as feasible after removal of gloves or other PPE;
 - d. Treating all human blood and bodily fluids/tissue as if it is known to be infectious for a communicable disease;
 - e. Using an appropriate barrier device when providing CPR;
 - f. Using a face mask or shield if it is reasonable to anticipate an exposure to an airborne transmissible disease;
 - g. Decontaminating non-disposable equipment (e.g., flashlight, control devices, clothing and portable radio) as soon as possible if the equipment is a potential source of exposure;
- 1) Clothing that has been contaminated by blood or other potentially infectious materials shall be

removed immediately or as soon as feasible and stored/decontaminated appropriately.

2) Vehicles that have been contaminated by blood or other potentially infectious materials shall be taken off-line immediately or as soon as feasible and decontaminated.

3) Interview rooms and temporary holding cells that have been contaminated by blood or other potentially infectious materials shall be immediately secured and decontaminated.

- h. Handling all sharps and items that cut or puncture (e.g., needles, broken glass, razors, knives) cautiously and using puncture-resistant containers for their storage and/or transportation;
- i. Avoiding eating, drinking or smoking, applying cosmetics or lip balm, or handling contact lenses where there is a reasonable likelihood of exposure;
- j. Disposing of biohazardous waste appropriately or labeling biohazardous material properly when it is stored.
- k. Procedures for utilizing the AeroClave Decontamination System are described in [SOP300](#).

871.4.2: IMMUNIZATIONS

- a. Members who could be exposed to HBV due to their positions may receive the HBV vaccine and any routine booster at no cost (29 CFR 1910.1030; OAR 437-002-0360).
- b. Other preventive, no-cost immunizations shall be provided to members who are at risk of contracting a communicable disease if such preventive immunization is available and is medically appropriate.
- c. A member shall not be required to be immunized unless such immunization is otherwise required by federal or state law, rule or regulation ([ORS 433.416](#)).

871.5: POST EXPOSURE

871.5.1: INITIAL POST EXPOSURE STEPS

Members who experience an exposure or suspected exposure shall:

- a. Begin decontamination procedures immediately (e.g., wash hands and any other skin with soap and water, flush mucous membranes with water);
- b. Obtain medical attention as appropriate;
- c. Notify a supervisor as soon as practical.

871.5.2: REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- a. The on-duty supervisor shall investigate every exposure or suspected exposure that occurs as soon as possible following the incident.

- b. The supervisor shall ensure the following information is documented (29 CFR 1910.1030; OAR 437-002-0360):
- 1) Name of the member exposed;
 - 2) Date and time of the incident;
 - 3) Location of the incident;
 - 4) Potentially infectious materials involved and the source of exposure (e.g., identification of the person who may have been the source);
 - 5) Work being done during exposure;
 - 6) How the incident occurred or was caused;
 - 7) PPE in use at the time of the incident;
 - 8) Actions taken post-event (e.g., clean-up, notifications).
- c. The supervisor shall advise the member that disclosing the identity and/or infectious status of a source to the public or to anyone who is not involved in the follow-up process is prohibited.
- d. The supervisor should complete the incident documentation in conjunction with other reporting requirements that may apply (see the [Occupational Disease and Work-Related Injury Reporting: Policy 870](#)).

871.5.3: MEDICAL CONSULTATION, EVALUATION, AND TREATMENT

- a. Department members shall have the opportunity to have a confidential medical evaluation immediately after an exposure and follow-up evaluations as necessary (29 CFR 1910.1030; OAR 437-002-0360).
- b. The ECO should request a written opinion/evaluation from the treating medical professional that contains only the following information:
- 1) Whether the member has been informed of the results of the evaluation;
 - 2) Whether the member has been notified of any medical conditions resulting from exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials which require further evaluation or treatment.
- c. No other information should be requested or accepted by the ECO.

871.5.4: COUNSELING

The Department shall provide the member, and his/her family if necessary, the opportunity for counseling and consultation regarding the exposure (29 CFR 1910.1030; OAR 437-002-0360)

871.5.5: SOURCE TESTING

- a. Testing a person for communicable diseases when that person was the source of an exposure should be done when it is desired by the exposed member or when it is otherwise appropriate.
- b. Source testing is the responsibility of the ECO. If the ECO is unavailable to seek timely testing of the source, it is the responsibility of the exposed member's supervisor to ensure testing is sought.
- c. Source testing may be achieved by:
 - 1) Obtaining consent from the individual;
 - 2) Contacting the Oregon Health Authority to seek voluntary consent for source testing for HIV ([ORS 433.065](#));
 - 3) Petitioning for a court order to compel source testing for HIV or other communicable diseases as defined by ORS 431A.005, if a good faith effort to obtain voluntary consent is requested from the source person and not obtained ([2017 Oregon Laws Chapter 696](#)).
 - 4) Working with the district attorney if the person is charged with a criminal offense that may involve exposure to a communicable disease ([ORS 135.139](#)).
- d. Since there is the potential for overlap between the different manners in which source testing may occur, the ECO is responsible for coordinating the testing to prevent unnecessary or duplicate testing.
- e. The ECO should seek the consent of the individual for testing and consult the City Attorney to discuss other options when no statute exists for compelling the source of an exposure to undergo testing if the individual refuses.

871.6: CONFIDENTIALITY OF REPORTS

- a. Medical information shall remain in confidential files and shall not be disclosed to anyone without the member's written consent (except as required by law).
- b. Test results from persons who may have been the source of an exposure are to be kept confidential as well.

871.7: TRAINING

All members shall participate in training regarding communicable diseases commensurate with the requirements of their position. The training (29 CFR 1910.1030; OAR 437-002-0360):

- a. Shall be provided at the time of initial assignment to tasks where an occupational exposure may take place and at least annually after the initial training;
- b. Shall be provided whenever the member is assigned new tasks or procedures affecting his/ her potential exposure to communicable disease;
- c. Should provide guidance on what constitutes an exposure, what steps can be taken to avoid an exposure and what steps should be taken if a suspected exposure occurs.