

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



**Standard Operating Procedures**

**Policy Name:** Transporting Offenders with Infectious Diseases

**Policy Number:** 507.04.53

**Effective Date:** 01/27/2022

**Page Number:** 1 of 5

**Authority:**  
Commissioner

**Originating Division:**  
Health services Division  
(Physical Health)

**Access Listing:**  
Level I: All Access

**I. Introduction and Summary:**

All Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) transport personnel will use Standard Precautions when transporting an offender with or without a known infectious disease. All blood and other potentially infectious body fluids will be treated as if infectious. Non-GDC transport personnel will be notified of precautions to use when transporting an offender with an infectious disease. This procedure is applicable to all facilities that house GDC offenders to include private and county prisons.

**II. Authority:**

- A. O.C.G.A. §§42-1-7, 31-17-1, and 31-22-9.1;
- B. Ga. Comp. R. & Regs.: 125-2-1-.01(d), and 125-2-1-.06;
- C. GDC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs): 507.04.52 Patient Transport, 507.04.54 Management of Offenders with Suspected or Active Tuberculosis, and 507.03.15 Tuberculosis Screening of Correctional Personnel;
- D. Georgia Department of Public Health: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) policy;
- E. NCCHC 2018 Adult Standards: P-A-08 and P-H-02; and
- G. ACA Standards: 5-ACI-6A-13, 5-ACI-6A-05, 5-ACI-6A-14 (Mandatory), 5-ACI-6D-06, and 4-ALDF-4D-27.

**III. Definitions:**

- A. **Facility** - Any state owned or state operated hospital, community mental health center or other Facility utilized for the diagnosis, care, treatment, or hospitalization of persons who are physically or mentally ill; any Facility operated or utilized for such purpose by the United States Veterans Administration or other Federal agency; and other hospital or Facility within the State of Georgia approved for such purpose by the Department.

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B. **Infectious Diseases** - To include infectious hepatitis, suspected or diagnosed active tuberculosis, influenza, COVID, measles, chicken pox, meningitis, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, syphilis, gonorrhea, chancroid or methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).

C. **Standard Precautions** - Measures designed to reduce the risk of transmission of germs from recognized and unrecognized sources of infection.

**IV. Statement of Policy and Applicable Procedures:**

A. GDC Officers:

1. GDC officers will learn about Standard Precautions at BCOT, Pre-service Orientation and Annual Infectious Disease training. It will be understood that any offender being transported could be potentially infected with an airborne or bloodborne disease and not yet be diagnosed:
  - a. At the conclusion of training GDC officers will be asked to sign form P-36-0002.02, GDC Precautions for Infectious Disease. Specific precautions for the prevention of transmission of these diseases are found on this form. This form is available on Captiva/Resources/Health Services Documents/02 Physical Health/Health Record Manual/05 Infection Control Forms and in the Infection Control Manual.
  - b. The original signed form should be permanently retained in the Employee's Health Record. A copy of the form should be given to the GDC officer.
2. Supplies to implement Standard Precautions that should be available in the GDC transport vehicle include:
  - a. Disposable latex (or vinyl) gloves, durable rubber household gloves (reusable), or thick leather gloves;
  - b. Hibiclens or liquid soap solution;

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- c. Disposable paper towels;
  - d. CPR Microshield;
  - e. Plastic trashcan liners;
  - f. Box of tissues;
  - g. 3-5 disposable N-95 surgical masks; and
  - h. Spill Kit.
3. Standard Procedures for Cleaning Body Fluid Contamination:
- a. Standard procedures should be in place at each Facility to guide staff and offenders when cleaning up after an accident or injury and for cleaning areas potentially contaminated with blood or other body fluids. These procedures include:
    - 1) Wearing gloves;
    - 2) Cleaning up blood and body fluid spills on environmental surfaces soon after the spill with a disposable towel and a freshly prepared solution of household bleach and water (1-part household bleach and 10 parts water) or other disinfectant. A commercial spill kit may also be used;
    - 3) Placing blood or body fluid-soaked items that are disposable in a sturdy plastic bag (red) then sealing the bag that should have a biohazard label on it. Persons disposing of the plastic bag should wear gloves;
    - 4) Persons cleaning up spills or handling contaminated items should wash their hands after such activities even if they have been wearing gloves; and

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- 5) Clothes and linens contaminated with body fluids should be placed in a water-soluble bag then in a plastic bag and laundered separately. Persons handling contaminated clothing should wear gloves.
4. Any GDC transport officer who has had a significant exposure (EXAMPLE: splashing of a body fluid into the eye, mouth, or an open lesion; puncture with an item contaminated with body fluid; or a bite) should immediately contact the health service unit staff regarding the exposure. If not on-site or after hours, contact GDC supervisor. The appropriate supervisor/manager will be notified as soon as possible, and other necessary action will be taken, to include notification to the worker's compensation network and authorized Panel of Physicians for medical care.

**B. Non GDC Public Safety Officers:**

1. Transportation of offenders with known infectious disease status by public safety officers (other than GDC personnel) will be done in accordance with SOP 507.04.53, Transporting of Offenders with Infectious Diseases. All non-GDC public safety officers transporting offenders will sign a Notification of Infectious Disease for Non-GDC Staff Form. This form contains specific instructions for protection against airborne and bloodborne pathogens.
2. Administration will notify the medical staff when an offender is to be transferred by non-GDC staff. Medical staff will review the offender's health record for the presence of an airborne or bloodborne Infectious Diseases as defined in section III.B. If such disease is present, medical staff will attach form P-36-0002.01, Notification of an Infectious Disease for Non-GDC Staff or approved form to the outside of the sealed envelope containing the health record and send it to GDC Security I.D. Staff. The form can be found in the Infection Control section of the Health Record Manual available on Captiva and in the Infection Control Manual.
3. I.D. Room Staff will set up a filing system that is organized chronologically by month.

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4. Prior to the transfer of custody of the offender to the non-GDC officer, the I.D. Room Staff will give the notification form to the non-GDC transport officer for his/her signature. The original signed form will be placed in the appropriate month's file by I.D. Room Staff and kept for ten (10) years. A copy will be given to the transport officer.

**Note:** All forms associated with this SOP may be found on the GDC Intranet at Captiva/Resources/Health Services Documents/02 Physical Health/Health Record Manual.

V. **Attachments:** None.

VI. **Record Retention of Forms Relevant to this Policy:** As specified by each form within this policy.