

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



**Standard Operating Procedures**

**Policy Name:** Laboratory Safety

**Policy Number:** 507.04.83

**Effective Date:** 01/19/2022

**Page Number:** 1 of 3

**Authority:**  
Commissioner

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

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

**I. Introduction and Summary:**

Laboratories will be maintained in a clean, sanitary, and safe condition to reduce the possibility of exposure to potentially infectious body fluids or materials. All staff will follow Standard Precautions. This policy is applicable to all facilities that house Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) offenders to include county and private prisons.

**II. Authority:**

- A. GDC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs): 507.04.57 Needle and Syringe Control; 507.04.70 Infection Control Program; 507.04.07 Environmental Health and Safety; 507.04.74 Exposure Control Plan: Bloodborne Pathogens;
- B. Georgia Department of Public Health: Guidelines for Standard Precautions and Bloodborne Pathogen Occupational Exposure Control, February 2015;
- C. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogens Standard, 29 CFR §1910.1030;
- D. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities, July 2019;
- E. NCCHC 2018 Adult Standards: P-D-04, P-B-04, and P-B-09; and
- F. ACA Standards: 5-ACI-6A-12 (Mandatory), 5-ACI-6A-16, 5-ACI-6A-17, and 4-ALDF-1A-02.

**III. Definitions:**

- A. **Standard Precautions** - A set of infection control practices used to prevent transmission of diseases that can be acquired by contact with blood, body fluids, non-intact skin, and mucous membranes.

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

- A. When conducting laboratory tests and diagnostic procedures, health care professionals will wear appropriate personal protective equipment to reduce the risk of exposure to blood and other body fluids. They will follow Standard Precautions procedures.
- B. After completion of laboratory tests and diagnostic procedures, the work surfaces will be decontaminated with an appropriate disinfectant, such as a solution of 5.25% sodium hypochlorite (household bleach) diluted 1:1.
- C. After any blood or body fluid spill, surfaces will be decontaminated in accordance with SOP 507.04.70, Infection Control Program.
- D. Immediately after use, contaminated sharps will be placed in the sharps puncture-resistant containers. Needles will not be removed from the vacutainer holder. Safety needles must be used at all times.
- E. Infectious waste will be disposed of in color-coded bags or containers according to OSHA standards.
- F. Food and drink will not be kept in the laboratory refrigerator or consumed in the laboratory work area.
- G. The laboratory refrigerator temperatures must be maintained in the recommended range and recorded on a refrigerator temperature log.
- H. Biohazard trash and infectious waste will be collected on a scheduled basis and placed in disposable storage containers identified with the word, "Biohazardous" to be disposed of by the vendor that provides such service to the facility. Documentation will be maintained regarding the disposal of biohazardous materials.

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- I. When services requiring the use of sharps are provided outside the routine medical areas such as lockdown units, puncture resistant containers will be taken to the area and used for disposal of contaminated sharps.

V. **Attachments:** None.

VI. **Record Retention of Forms Relevant to this Policy:** None.