



# **SENECA COUNTY**

## **Emergency Medical Service**



### **Seneca County Emergency Medical Services Standard Administrative Guideline**

**Subject: Exposure to Contagious Disease**

**Reference Number: 11**

**Effective Date: 6-2008**

**Review Date: 6-2010**

#### **Purpose:**

To Provide guidelines for members that are exposed to infectious diseases

#### **Background:**

The nature of EMS work places the workers in situations that may cause the exposure to communicable, or infectious diseases. Having a policy or guideline in place is essential for the member to properly report these exposures.

#### **Policy & Procedure**

A. A member is required to report any exposure to a contagious disease that might pose a direct threat to health and safety in the workplace.

B. Seneca County EMS may remove or reassign an infected or contagious employee or coworker, if a secondary infection would pose a higher than usual risk to the member or others.

C. Members who are at risk of exposure to blood-borne or contagious diseases will follow a system of "universal precautions," a set of standard procedures designed to limit the spread of infection in the workplace. Supervisors will instruct members about any special precautions and/or necessary regulations affecting individual work areas.

D. A member concerned about being infected with a contagious disease while in the workplace should convey this concern to his or her supervisor. Any member who refuses to work with or perform services for a person known or suspected to have a contagious disease is subject to discipline, up to and including discharge.

E. Information relating to a contagious disease in the workplace will be disclosed to members when the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of

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members or others. The County will determine the necessity of disclosure.

F. It is essential to treat all patients the same. By treating all patients as if they have a contagious disease, and wearing proper PPE on all patients, the risk of exposure is limited, and each patient receives the proper care.

G. If the exposure is through a failure of PPE, or the members PPE failed to operate as it is designed, the member must report the exposure, and complete an incident report explaining and detailing the PPE failure.

H. If the exposure is the result of a needlestick injury, immediately follow up with the emergency department of the hospital to where the patient was transported. Complete a BWC First Report of Injury, and follow the emergency department physicians instructions for treatment. If the needlestick is not associated with a patient transport, immediately seek treatment at Tiffin Mercy Hospital, complete a BWC first report of injury and follow the emergency department physicians instructions for treatment.

An incident report shall be filed with the Seneca County EMS directors office, as soon as possible following the incident.

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