

JACKSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy: 10-21
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COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

PURPOSE: To provide Department personnel with communicable disease information and current safety procedures which will assist in minimizing potential exposure, while increasing knowledge of the nature and potential risks of communicable diseases. It shall also be the policy of this Department that every person receives appropriate service and emergency care regardless of their physical condition.

POLICY: To establish procedures for the proper investigation of incidents that involve persons who have, or are suspected of having a communicable disease. The procedures shall establish:

- A. Guidelines to reduce the risk of law enforcement or Emergency Service Officers of contracting a communicable disease during the performance of official duties;
- B. Procedures to be followed when an officer has a line of duty exposure to a communicable disease; and
- C. The ability to assure the confidentiality and the prevention of discrimination against victims of communicable diseases.

DEFINITIONS:

- I. **BODY FLUIDS:** Liquid secretion including, but not limited to, blood, semen and vaginal or other secretions that might contain these fluids, such as saliva, vomit, urine or feces.
- II. **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE:** Those infectious illnesses that are transmitted through direct or indirect (including airborne) contact with an infected individual, including but not limited to the body fluids of the infected individual.

PROCEDURES:

- I. **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION**
 - A. In order to minimize potential exposure to communicable diseases, officers must assume that all persons are potential carriers of a communicable disease.
 - B. Officers must cover all open cuts and abrasions with waterproof bandages prior to reporting for duty.
 - C. Disposable double latex gloves shall be worn when handling any person, clothing or equipment with body fluids on them, or when the officer anticipates becoming involved in assaultive behavior through which the officer may potentially become exposed to blood or body fluids containing blood.
 1. Gloves should not be reused, and a new pair should be put on before handling a different person or touching uncontaminated items;
 2. When leather or cotton gloves are worn for crime scene work, latex gloves can be worn underneath for added protection; and
 3. In appropriate circumstances, more than one (1) pair of latex gloves shall be worn to protect against exposure.
 - D. Mask, protective eye goggles and protective disposable coveralls shall be worn where body fluids may be splashed on the officer, or where airborne contamination of a communicable disease is anticipated.