


**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES**

Subject: Communicable Disease/Prevention and Management	Policy Number: 29
Number of Pages: 4	Section: XIV
Attachments: A. Reportable Disease Report-2017	Related Standards & References:
Effective Date: June 1, 2012 Revised December 1, 2019	Approved:  James Maccarone, Director

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Services to address the management of serious infectious and communicable diseases for the safety of youth and staff.

II. DEFINITIONS

As used in this policy and procedure, the following definitions apply:

A. Communicable Disease: Any disease that has the potential to be transmitted from one person to another according to the particular mode of transmission for that specific disease. Not all communicable diseases will be transmitted from one person to another. (For Reportable Diseases-2010, see attachment)

B. AIDS: The illness caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Infection with this virus attacks the immune defenses of the body and leaves its victims vulnerable to opportunistic infection.

C. Chicken Pox: An acute, contagious, viral disease characterized by fever and the onset of generalized papulo-vesicular rash without apparent cause. Communicability is usually 5-6 days prior to rash onset.

D. Incubation Period: The phase in the development of a disease between the infection and first appearance of symptoms.

E. Ectoparasite: A parasite that lives on the outer surface of the body, such as fleas, ticks, and lice.

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F. Direct contact: Transmission via person-to-person contact with an infected host.

G. Indirect Contact: Transmission from other than the infected host; may be form inanimate objects such as combs, hats, clothing, etc.

H. Hepatitis B Virus (HBV): Inflammation of the liver caused ny the Hepatitis B virus.

I. Seasonal Flu: A respiratory illness that can be transmitted person to person. Most people have some immunity, and a vaccine in available. This is also known as the common flu, or winter flu, which may cause mild illness and rarely requires hospitalization.

J. Tuberculosis (TB): An infectious disease caused by the mycobacterium Tubercular Bacilli.

K. Standard Precautions: Protective procedures that apply to blood and other body fluids containing visible blood, semen, and vaginal secretions. They also apply to tissues and flowing fluids:

- Cerebrospinal fluid – found in the brain and spinal cord
- Synovial fluid – found around joints and tendons
- Pleural fluid – found around the lungs
- Pericardial fluid – found around the heart
- Amniotic fluid – Found around the fetus of a pregnant woman

Although the risk of transmission of HIV and HBV from feces, nasal secretions, sputum, sweat, tears, urine, vomitus and saliva is extremely low, standard precautions should also apply.

III. PROCEDURE

The Department’s Health Authority shall establish procedures that address the following: (4-JCF-4C-22M, 4-JCF-4C-23M, 4-JCF-4C-24M, and 4-JCF-4C-25M, as stated in Performance Based Standards for Juvenile Correctional Facilities by the American Correctional Association)

- Ongoing education programs for staff
- Identification, Control, and Prevention strategies
- Protection of individual confidentiality and media relations
- Reporting requirements to applicable local, state, and federal agencies
- Medical examination of any employee or youth suspected of a communicable disease.

Community Services Section personnel shall immediately notify their supervisor or designee of all suspected or conformed cases on infectious and communicable diseases. (4-JCF-4C-22M)

MDHS shall provide Community Services Section staff with prevention, education, and identification, and adhere to reporting requirements to applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

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Precautions shall also be taken to protect staff and visitors from the harmful effects of all communicable diseases. (3-JCRF-4C-22, 4-JCF-4C-22M)

The reporting of all communicable diseases shall be handled by the appropriate means as specified by the Mississippi State Department of health rules and Regulations governing reportable diseases.

Penalties for violating health department orders with respect to life threatening communicable diseases:

Any person who shall knowingly and willfully violate the lawful order of the county, district or state health officer where that person is afflicted with a life-threatening communicable disease, or the causative agent thereof, shall be guilty of a felony, and upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00), or by imprisonment in the penitentiary for not more than five (5) years, or by both. (Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, as amended, Section 41-23-2).

PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE:

A. Hand hygiene is the most effective form of communicable disease prevention.

1. When arriving at work, wash hands using generous amounts of soap
 - Wet hands with warm water
 - If using bar soap, work up a good lather. If using liquid soap or foam, use at least one tablespoon
 - Rub hand vigorously under warm water for at least 15 seconds (about the time it takes to sing the happy birthday song twice)
 - It is important to use warm water (you are much more likely to adequately wash your hands if the water is a comfortable temperature)
 - Dry hands completely with paper towels and use paper towels to turn off the faucet
 - Hand sanitizer may be used during the day as long as hands are not visibly soiled
 - Wash hands with soap and water before leaving work for the day
2. Use proper cough and sneeze hygiene
 - Use a fresh tissue each time and throw away in an appropriate receptacle
 - If tissues are not available, use your sleeve
3. If someone around you is visibly ill, i.e. coughing, practice "social distancing," which involves keeping a six (6) foot distance, if at all possible.

B. Education is the most effective tool for alleviating fear associated with contagious diseases, such as HIV, tuberculosis, and hepatitis.

1. The Division of Youth Services shall conduct training to staff and provide factual information on topics including, but not limited to, hand washing, and infection control.

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- C. When an employee is suspected of being infected with a contagious disease, he/she shall be referred to their family physician for examination and/or treatment. The employee shall obtain written approval from their family physician to return to work.
- D. Reporting: see Mississippi Department of Health website: www.msdh.ms.gov – under Services and Programs → disease control → epidemiology, for rules and regulations governing reportable diseases, list of reportable diseases, and penalties for failure to report.
- E. Refer to the following MDHS medical policies and procedures for detailed information; (MDHS medical policies and procedures can be accessed via the MDHS website: www.mdhs.ms.gov → Youth Services → Policies and Procedures)
- Communicable Disease management Policy XI.33
 - Exposure Control and Standard Precautions Policy XI.38
 - First Aid Kits, Spill Kits and Automatized External Defibrillator (AED) Policy XI.5
 - HIV Screening, Testing and Management Policy XI.35
 - Hepatitis Screening, Testing and Management Policy XI.35
 - Tuberculosis (TB Testing and Management Policy XI.36
- F. Confidentiality: Medical diagnosis and treatment of staff/youth/visitors shall be kept in strictest confidence, on a need to know basis. Community Services Section personnel may share data in written or electronic form with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Mississippi Department of Health (MDH), and local Health Departments. The Community Services Director/designee shall approve any other request for medical information or statistical data prior to release.
- G. Media: All requests for information on any issue received from radio, press, television or electronic media personalities shall be referred to the Director of the Division of Youth Services.