

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

| | |
|--|--|
| Subject: COMMUNICABLE DISEASE/PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT | Policy Number: 29 |
| Number of Pages: 5 | Section: |
| Attachments: A. Reportable Disease Report-2010 | Related Standards & References: |
| Effective Date: June 1, 2012 | Approved: <hr/> 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 staff and youth. 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)

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

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

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)

| Subject | Policy # | Page |
|--|-----------|---------------|
| COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT | 29 | 2 of 5 |

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),

The facility will also notify the Division of Youth Services Director that a communicable disease has been encountered in the facility. It is to be included in the Monthly Report.

II. DEFINITIONS

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

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).

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.

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

Incubation Period – is the phase in the development of a disease between the infection and first appearance of symptoms.

Ectoparasite – a parasite that lives on the outer surface of the body, such as fleas, ticks and lice.

Direct Contact – transmission via person-to-person contact with an infected host.

Indirect Contact – transmission from other than the infected host; may be from inanimate objects such as combs, hats, clothing, etc.

| Subject | Policy # | Page |
|--|-----------------|---------------|
| COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT | 29 | 3 of 5 |

Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) – inflammation of the liver caused by the Hepatitis B virus.

Tuberculosis (TB) - an infectious disease caused by the Mycobacterium Tubercular bacilli.

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 the flowing fluids:

- Cerebrospinal fluid – found in the brain and spinal cord
- Synovial fluid – found around the 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 also apply.

III. PROCEDURE

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 a generous amount 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 1 tablespoon
 - Rub hands vigorously under warm water for at least 15 seconds (about the length of 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 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 tissue away in an appropriate receptacle
 - If tissues are not available use your sleeve

| Subject | Policy # | Page |
|--|-----------|---------------|
| COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT | 29 | 4 of 5 |

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 Director of Community Services/designee shall coordinate yearly education and prevention training.
 2. The Division of Youth Services shall conduct annual training to staff and provide factual information on topics including, but not limited to, hand washing, infection control and use of first-aid and spill kits.
 3. Community personnel are informed of potential endemic and epidemic contagious diseases, including transmission route, precautions and treatment of disease.
- 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.state.ms.us - under services and programs → disease → control-epidemiology) for standards, rules, regulations 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 MDHS website www.mdhs.state.us.ms/dys.html)
- Communicable Disease Management Policy XI.33
 - Exposure Control and Standard Precautions Policy XI.38
 - First Aid Kits, Spill Kits and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Policy XI.5
 - HIV Screening, Testing and Management Policy XI.34
 - 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 personnel may share data in written or electronic form with the Centers for

| Subject | Policy # | Page |
|--|-----------------|---------------|
| COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT | 29 | 5 of 5 |

Disease Control (CDC), the Mississippi Department of Health (MDH), and local Health Departments. The Director of Community Services/designee shall approve any other requests 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 Division Director.
- H. The Director of Community Services/designee shall review this policy annually and update as necessary.