

MARION COUNTY SAFETY MANUAL ANNEX I – INFECTIOUS CONTROL

Overview

The term “infectious control” is used to describe the steps taken to stop or control the spread of a disease or organism that is capable of causing infection or illness in a person. Within the County there are specific departments that must have department specific infectious control plans. Those departments include EMS, Sheriff’s Office, Prison Farm, and Detention Center. There are very specific requirements within the Blood Borne Pathogens and TB Standards that must be met by these departments. These departments must also offer Hepatitis B vaccinations to their employees.

Other County employees who do not work in the previously mentioned departments should have a basic understanding of infectious control. Although their jobs do not pose the risk of occupational exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials, these employees do face an inadvertent risk of exposure. This type of exposure could occur when a citizen in your office falls and receives a cut. As a result of the cut, the citizen begins to bleed and the employee then comes in contact with the citizen’s blood. In this case, the employee has received an inadvertent exposure.

Formula for Infection

For a person to become sick from an exposure, a very specific set of circumstances must occur. This process can be best described as a puzzle. If one piece of the puzzle is missing, the development of the disease by the individual exposed will not be possible.

1. Organism: All diseases start with an organism that causes the illness or infection.
2. Dose: How much of the organism is present in a medium that will allow the organism to thrive and be transmitted?
3. Virulence: How strong is the organism and can it live outside of the body?
4. Mode of Entry: How does the organism get into the body?
5. Host Resistance: How healthy is your body? Do you practice a healthy lifestyle and good hygiene?

Take a good look at the above formula and consider the procedures that you perform everyday when evaluating your potential risk.

Work Area Restrictions

In work areas where there is a reasonable likelihood of exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials, employees are not to eat, drink, apply cosmetics or lip balm, smoke or handle contact lenses.

Personal Protective Equipment

Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) will be used anytime blood or other potentially infectious materials are present. PPE should not permit blood or other potentially infectious materials to pass through or reach the employee's clothes, skin, eye, mouth or mucous membranes. PPE will be provided to all employees tasked with providing first aid and housekeeping duties. PPE will be provided at no cost to employees by the County.

Post Exposure

In the event that an employee is exposed to someone's blood or other potentially infectious materials, he/she should first wash the affected area with soap and water. All exposure incidents should be immediately reported to the department head or immediate supervisor. The department head or supervisor will then notify the County Risk Manager or Personnel Director.

Once an employee reports an exposure, the department head or supervisor should immediately complete a First Report of Injury form and submit it to the Personnel Director as soon as possible. All County employees experiencing an exposure incident will be offered post exposure medical treatment.

The County will maintain a record for each employee who experiences an exposure incident. This record will contain the following information:

- Employee Name
- Social Security Number
- Hepatitis B Vaccination Status
- Copy of Past Exposure Incidents

These records will remain confidential and must be maintained by the County for the duration of employment plus 30 years.

Conclusion

This annex is not intended to scare employees, but it is aimed at educating employees of the risk associated with Blood Borne Pathogens and other potentially infectious materials. Unless employees work in one of the County's Public Safety Departments,

their risk of experiencing an exposure incident are slim. It is very important to remember personal safety and the use of PPE when dealing with blood and other body fluids. If you have any questions, contact your supervisor or the County Risk Manager.