

Laurel Police Department – General Order
Chapter IX, Section 100, Order 101 – Communicable Disease
August 31, 2015

9 / 101.05 POLICY

It is the policy of the Department to ensure that its members are able to perform their duties in a safe and effective manner. This Department will continuously provide employees with up-to-date safety procedures and communicable disease information that will assist in minimizing potential exposure.

9 / 101.10 PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for law enforcement officers in preventing the contraction of communicable diseases.

9 / 101.15 DEFINITIONS

Body Fluids	Liquid secretions including blood, semen, and vaginal or other secretions that might contain these fluids such as saliva, vomit, urine or feces.
Communicable Disease	Those infectious illnesses that are transmitted through contact with the body fluids of an infected individual

9 / 101.20 PROCEDURES

A. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION

1. In order to minimize potential exposure to communicable diseases, officers should assume that all persons are potential carriers of a communicable disease.
2. Disposable gloves shall be worn when handling any persons, clothing or equipment with body fluids on them.
3. Masks, protective eyewear and coveralls shall be worn where body fluids may be splashed on the officer.
4. Plastic mouthpieces or other authorized barrier/ resuscitation devices shall be used whenever an officer performs CPR or mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
5. All sharp instruments such as knives, scalpels, and needles shall be handled with extraordinary care and should be considered contaminated items.
 - a. Leather gloves shall be worn when searching for or handling sharp instruments.
 - b. Officers shall not place their hands in areas where sharp instruments might be hidden.
 - 1) An initial visual search of an area should be conducted, using a flashlight where necessary.

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- 2) The suspect may also be asked to remove such objects from his person.
- c. Needles shall not be recapped, bent broken, removed from a disposable syringe or otherwise manipulated by hand.
 - 1) Needles shall be placed in a puncture-resistant container when being collected for evidentiary purposes.
6. Officers shall not smoke, eat, or drink around body fluid spills.
7. Any evidence contaminated with body fluids will be dried, double bagged in plastic bags and marked to identify potential or known communicable disease contamination.

B. TRANSPORT AND CUSTODY

1. Where appropriate protective equipment is available, no officer shall refuse to arrest or otherwise physically handle any person who may have a communicable disease.
2. Officers shall not put their fingers in or near any person's mouth.
3. Individuals with body fluids on their persons shall be transported in separate vehicles from other individuals.
 - a. The individual may be required to wear a coverall and disposable gloves if he is bleeding or otherwise emitting body fluids.
4. Officers have an obligation to notify relevant support personnel during a transfer of custody when the suspect has body fluids present on his person, or has stated that he has a communicable disease.
5. Suspects taken into custody with body fluids on their person shall be directly placed in the designated holding area for processing.
 - a. The holding area shall be posted with an "Isolated Area-Do Not Enter" sign.
6. Officers shall document on the appropriate arrest or incident form when a suspect taken into custody has body fluid on his person, or has stated that he has a communicable disease.

C. DISINFECTION

1. "Any unprotected skin surfaces that come into contact with body fluids shall be immediately and thoroughly washed with hot running water and soap for 15 seconds before rinsing and drying.
 - a. Alcohol or antiseptic towelettes may be used where soap and water are unavailable.
 - b. Disposable gloves should be rinsed before removal.
 - c. The hands and forearms should then be washed.
 - d. Hand lotion should be applied after disinfection to prevent chapping and to seal cracks and cuts on the skin.
 - e. All open cuts and abrasions shall be covered.

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2. Officers shall remove clothing that has been contaminated with body fluids as soon as practical. Any contaminated skin area should then be cleansed in the prescribed fashion. Contaminated clothing should be handled carefully and laundered in the normal fashion.
3. Disinfection procedures shall be initiated whenever body fluids are spilled, or an individual with body fluids on his person is transported in a departmental vehicle.
 - a. Affected vehicles shall be immediately designated by the posting of an “Infectious Disease Contamination” sign upon arrival at the station and while awaiting disinfection.
 - b. Officers shall remove any excess body fluids from the vehicle with an absorbent cloth, paying special attention to any cracks, crevices or seams that may be holding excess fluid.
 - c. The affected area should be disinfected using hot water and detergent or alcohol, and allowed to air dry.
4. Non-disposable equipment and areas upon which body fluids have been spilled shall be disinfected as follows:
 - a. Any excess of body fluids should first be wiped up with approved disposable absorbent materials.
 - b. Officers shall remove any excess body fluids from the vehicle with an absorbent cloth, paying special attention to any cracks, crevices or seams that may be holding excess fluid.
 - c. The affected area should be disinfected using hot water and detergent or alcohol, and allowed to air dry.
 - d. A freshly prepared solution of one part bleach to 10 (ten) parts water or a fungicidal/mycobactericidal disinfectant shall be used to clean the area or equipment.
5. All disposable equipment, cleaning materials or evidence contaminated with body fluids shall be bagged and disposed of in compliance with state law provisions for disposal of biologically hazardous waste material.

D. SUPPLIES

1. The Quartermaster is responsible for continuously maintaining and storing an adequate amount of communicable disease control supplies for the department.
 - a. The Quartermaster is responsible for dissemination of supplies for infectious disease control.
 - b. Protective gloves, other first aid supplies and disinfecting materials will be made readily available at all times.

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2. The department shall continuously stock the following communicable disease control supplies:
 - a. Clean coveralls in appropriate sizes
 - b. Disposable gloves and leather gloves
 - c. Puncture-resistant containers and sealable plastic bags
 - d. Barrier resuscitation equipment, goggles and masks
 - e. Liquid germicidal cleaner
 - f. Disposable towelettes (70 percent isopropyl alcohol)
 - g. Absorbent cleaning materials
 - h. “Isolation Area- Do Not Enter” signs
3. Officers are required to keep disposable gloves in their possession while on either motor or foot patrol.

E. LINE OF DUTY EXPOSURE

1. Any officer who has been bitten by a person, or who has had any physical contact with body fluids of another person while in the line of duty shall be considered to have been exposed to a communicable disease.
2. A supervisor shall be contacted, and all appropriate duty injury shall and medical forms shall be completed by the supervisor.
3. Immediately after exposure, the officer shall be transported to the appropriate health care facility for clinical and serological testing for evidence of infection.
 - a. The department shall ensure continued testing of the officer for evidence of infection and provide psychological counseling as determined necessary by the health care official.
 - b. Unless disclosure to an appropriate departmental official is authorized by the officer or by state law, the officer’s tests results shall remain confidential.
4. Any person responsible for potentially exposing the officer to a communicable disease shall be encouraged to undergo testing to determine if the person has a communicable disease.
 - a. The person shall be provided a copy of the test results and guaranteed its confidentiality.
5. Officer who test positive for a communicable disease may continue working as long as they maintain acceptable performance and do not pose a safety and health threat to themselves, the public or the department.
 - a. The department shall make all decisions concerning the employee’s work status solely on the medical opinions and advice of the department’s health care officials.
 - b. The department may require an employee to be examined by the department health care officials to determine if he is able to perform his / her duties without hazard to himself or others.

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6. All personnel shall treat employees who have contracted a communicable disease fairly, courteously and with dignity.

F. RECORD KEEPING

1. The department shall maintain written records of all incidents involving employees who have potentially been exposed to a communicable disease while acting in the line of duty.
 - a. The record shall be stored in a secured area with limited access, and maintained in conformance with applicable privacy laws.

9 / 101.25 GOVERNING LEGISLATION AND REFERENCES

None

9 / 101.30 ANNEX

None