
Purpose

This policy outlines safe work practices against communicable diseases, in accordance with the requirements of OSHA policy and the City of Bemidji personnel policy.

Policy

The Bemidji Police Department will provide education, training and personal protective equipment to employees in an effort to protect them from blood borne and airborne pathogens.

Scope

This policy applies to all Bemidji Police Department employee who may come into contact with infected substances.

Procedure

I. Training and Education

- a. All employees will complete annual training regarding bloodborne and airborne pathogens
- b. All employee will demonstrate proficiency utilizing personal protective equipment.

II. Personal Protective Equipment and Vaccination

PPE will be considered appropriate when it is designed to deter blood or OPIM from passing through or reaching the officer's clothing, footwear, skin, eyes, mouth, or other mucous membranes under normal conditions of use and for the duration of time which the PPE is used.

- a. Employees will use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when appropriate.
- b. The department will supply the following:
 - i. Nitrile gloves
 - ii. Eye protection
 - iii. Face mask
 - iv. Shields
 - v. Gas Mask
- c. Officers will check patrol vehicles to ensure they have PPE's available.
- d. Employees will be provided the vaccination for Hepatitis B upon request.

III. Reporting exposure

- a. A reportable exposure incident is the direct exchange of blood or other potentially infectious material (OPIM) from a source subject to an officer. The following exposures are considered non-reportable;
 - i. Exposure to blood or OPIM on intact skin
 - ii. Blood or OPIM on clothing or equipment
 - iii. Being present in the same room as an infected subject
 - iv. Touching or talking to an infected subject
 1. (iii & iv) Except in the instance of Tuberculosis
- b. Employees will advise their direct supervisor of the exposure and complete a first report of injury form which, will be immediately forwarded to City Hall.
- c. Employees will immediately wash the affected area with warm soapy water and consult with the Sanford Medical facility regarding further examination or treatment.

IV. Decontamination

- a. Employees that have been exposed to blood or OPIM should immediately wash affected areas with warm soapy water.
- b. All clothing exposed to the blood or OPIM should be bagged and labeled as a biohazard. This clothing should then be delivered to a commercial cleaner.
 - i. The BPD will cover the expense related to cleaning.
- c. All department vehicles should be cleaned as soon as possible with approved cleaners and PPE.
- d. Employees must discard all contaminated waste, including needles, into proper receptacles.

Reference or Revision Date(s):

- A. OSHA policy 1910.1030
- B. Bemidji City personnel policy 201.901

REVISION DATE(S):