



ERIE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Written Directives

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POLICY:

The Erie Police Department realizes its members often come into contact with individuals who may have infectious diseases or have been exposed to infectious diseases. The Erie Police Department will take the necessary steps to ensure its members are educated and trained in ways to lessen their chances of contracting an infectious disease and allow the members to perform their duties in a safer manner.

The Erie Police Department members shall treat all employees and citizens who have been exposed to infectious diseases, fairly, courteously, and with dignity. Department members will not refuse service to infected or exposed individuals and will take all available precautions to accomplish their duties in as safe a manner as possible.

The Erie Police Department shall respect the confidentiality of the health status of an individual. Member's health information will not be released without legal authority or the signed written consent of the department member.

DEFINITIONS:

AIRBORNE PATHOGENS: Disease causing microorganisms spread by droplets expelled into the air through a cough or sneeze.

AT-RISK EMPLOYEES: Those employees whose job or duties bring them into close contact with body fluids or infectious wastes or materials, or persons known to have infectious diseases.

BIOHAZARD MATERIALS: Items needing to be disposed of that have been contaminated with human waste, blood, or body fluids; or human waste, human tissue, blood or body fluids for which special handling precautions are necessary.

PATHOGENS: Disease causing microorganisms which are present in human bodily fluids or blood. These pathogens include, but are not limited to hepatitis, Ebola, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and H1N1 commonly known as Bird Flu.

BODY FLUIDS: Fluids the body makes, including, but not limited to, blood, semen, mucus, feces, urine, vaginal secretions, breast milk, amniotic fluid, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pericardial fluid, and other fluids that may contain HIV, Ebola, Hepatitis, or other pathogens.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE: A disease which can be transmitted from one person to another through direct or indirect contact. This is also known as a contagious disease.

CONTAMINATED: Having come in contact with body fluids or a substance or process that poses a threat to life, health, or the environment.

DECONTAMINATION: The physical or chemical process of reducing and preventing the spread of contamination from persons and equipment.

DISEASE TRANSMISSION: The process of passing a disease from one person to another.

MUCOUS MEMBRANE: A moist layer of tissue that lines the mouth, eyes, nostrils, vagina, anus, and urethra.

SHARPS: Any object which can penetrate the skin, including but not limited to needles, knives and glass shards.

PROCEDURES:

I. PATHOGEN EXPOSURE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

A. Employees will assume all subjects contacted are possible carriers of infectious diseases, unless they know otherwise.

1. All subjects contacted will be treated with respect and dignity, regardless of being a known infectious disease carrier.

2. All information concerning the health status of a subject or employee will be confidential and will be kept confidential unless a need to know is established.

B. All at-risk employees will use appropriate caution and protective equipment when dealing with possible infectious disease exposure duties. These duties include:

1. Arrest, investigation and detention procedures which involve contact with subjects who may be contagious.

2. Processing of property, evidence or crime scenes. This includes the removal of bodies, fluids, hairs, fibers, or other objects that have been or could have been in contact with infectious disease sources.

3. Providing first aid or CPR to injured or ill persons. This includes extricating persons from vehicles, structures, or as otherwise encountered during the performance of duties.

II. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND WORK ENVIRONMENT CONTROL

At-risk employees shall adhere to the following precautions to avoid transmission of infectious diseases to other employees and to prevent the employee from becoming infected.

1. Open cuts, scrapes, sores or areas of broken skin will be covered with waterproof bandages before duty. Employees are encouraged to frequently wash their hands.

2. Clothing or protective equipment contaminated by body fluids or other infectious agents shall be removed as soon as possible and the underlying skin shall be washed with water and soap.
 - a. The employee shall be responsible for decontaminating their own clothing and equipment (department-owned or personal). Disposable protective equipment shall be placed in biohazard containers for disposal.
 - b. Gloves shall be worn when removing the contaminated items and/or placing the items in approved areas for decontamination or disposal.
3. Disposable gloves, latex or surgical, shall be worn only once and disposed of once their single use is completed or they become unserviceable. Employees shall wash hands after removing the gloves for disposal.
4. Masks and eye protection devices, such as goggles or face shields, should be worn when infectious materials might be splashed or sprayed in close proximity to the face.
5. Protective fluid resistant suits, aprons, gowns or coveralls shall be worn as determined by the possible degree of exposure anticipated.
6. Pocket masks, plastic mouthpieces, or other authorized barrier / resuscitation devices shall be used when a department member performs CPR or mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
7. Department members shall not smoke, eat, drink, apply makeup or lip balm, or handle contact lenses around body fluids or in work areas where exposure to infectious diseases is possible.
8. All sharps shall be handled with extra care and should be considered contaminated items.
 - a. Gloves or other protective gear shall be worn when searching persons or places or dealing in environments, such as accident scenes, where sharp objects and body fluids can reasonably be encountered.
 - b. Needles shall not be recapped, bent, broken or removed from a disposable syringe, or otherwise manipulated by hand.
 - c. Needles shall be placed in departmentally provided containers which are leak-proof and puncture resistant when being collected for evidence or disposal.
9. No food or drinks shall ever be kept in the same containers, refrigerators or other containers with potentially infectious materials.

10. Any property or evidence contaminated with or exposed to infectious materials or fluids shall be completely air dried, double bagged and marked as a Biohazard.

III. ARREST, CUSTODY AND TRANSPORTATION OF PRISONERS

- A. Extreme caution must be used when dealing with a subject who presents indications of assaultive or combative behavior. Gloves should always be put on as soon as possible as conditions permit when contacting a subject who has bodily fluids present or in the likelihood that such will be present.
- B. Officers shall not put their fingers in or near any person's mouth.
- C. Officers should use caution when placing their hands directly into a subject's pockets and should empty the pocket before searching the items. Officers should ask the subject if they have any objects on them which could cause injury to the officer prior to the search.
- D. Officers should move slowly and carefully when conducting a search and avoid rapid movements.
- E. Officers may ask the subject if he/she has any known history of communicable or infectious diseases. However, the subject is not required to answer and universal precautions should be observed.
- F. Subjects with body fluids on their persons shall be transported separately from other subjects. The subject may be required to wear protective covering if he/she is bleeding or otherwise emitting body fluids.
- G. A safety hood may be placed over the head of a spitting subject.
- H. Officers shall notify jail staff during a transfer of custody when the subject has bodily fluids, open sores, or otherwise has been exposed to or said that he/she has an infectious disease.
 - 1. Officers shall document the above facts on the custody report provided to jail personnel.
 - 2. Officers should be aware of Weld County and Boulder County Jail procedures for dealing with possible contagious prisoners.

IV. CRIME SCENES, EVIDENCE & PROPERTY COLLECTION

- A. Officers who first notice possible contaminated areas or items will notify other personnel of the presence of the biohazards and will identify the areas of concern.
- B. Wear gloves at all times, when at a crime scene with possible biohazards.
- C. Follow procedure for handling sharps.

- D. Wear other protective gear as circumstances warrant.
- E. Avoid stepping into or rubbing up against those areas where body fluids may be present.
- F. Gloved hands should not contact items which may be touched by personnel not wearing gloves.
- G. DO NOT:
 - 1. Smoke, eat or drink at any crime scene.
 - 2. Place fingers, pencils, or other objects in your mouth or near your eyes at any crime scene.
- H. DO:
 - 1. Clearly tag or mark all specimens that are known or suspected to be contaminated with bodily fluids.
 - 2. Collect dry bodily fluids samples using appropriate eye and mouth shields.
 - 3. Make appropriate warnings to other agencies or persons to whom responsibility for the crime scene or evidence is transferred.

V. DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURES

- A. The following procedures will be used for decontamination in most instances:
 - 1. Alcohol or antiseptic wipes may be used where soap and water are unavailable.
 - 2. Disposable gloves should be rinsed before removal and hands and forearms should then be washed.
 - 3. Skin surfaces shall be washed as soon as possible following the removal of any personal protective equipment.
 - 4. Contaminated items to be disposed of shall be placed in a designated biohazard waste collection area or receptacle which is clearly marked as biological waste material.
 - 5. Contaminated sharps will be disposed of in accordance with this directive and packaged in a sharps container.
- B. All department members who are personally exposed to, or contaminated by bodily fluids or possible pathogens, shall report the exposure to the watch commander and seek medical attention if necessary. Procedures for the different affected areas are as follows:
 - 1. Exposure to a mucous membrane:

- a. Repeatedly flush the area with saline solution as soon as possible.
 - b. Try not to swallow if exposure concerns the mouth.
2. Exposure to broken skin or as a result of a bite or sharps:
 - a. “Milk” the wound by applying pressure and, if possible, simultaneously pour hydrogen peroxide on the area.
 - b. Cover the wound with an alcohol pad.
 3. Exposure to intact skin:
 - a. Clean the area vigorously with an antimicrobial soap and water or utilize a pre-moistened antimicrobial hand wipe.
 - b. Take a full body shower if needed after properly securing clothing worn during the exposure.
- C. Department vehicles exposed to bodily fluids from a subject who does not appear to or admit to having a dangerous pathogen should be decontaminated by the employee assigned to the vehicle by the following procedures:
1. The employee driving the affected vehicle shall wear such protective clothing as necessary and remove any excess body fluids from the vehicle with an absorbent cloth, paying special attention to any cracks or crevices that may be holding fluids.
 2. The affected areas shall be disinfected using hot water and detergent, a bleach solution or alcohol and allowed to air dry.
- D. If a department vehicle has been exposed to bodily fluids from a subject who is known to or appears to have a dangerous pathogen, the vehicle should be taken out of service for cleaning by a professional biohazard cleaning company. The officer must notify a supervisor of this need as soon as possible.
- E. Non-disposable equipment and areas upon which body fluids have been spilled shall be disinfected as follows:
1. Using latex gloves and disposable absorbent materials, wipe any excess bodily fluids from the equipment.
 2. Using latex gloves, clean contaminated items with a disinfectant or a freshly prepared 1 part bleach/10 part water solution.

3. Clothing contaminated with bodily fluids should be changed out of as soon as possible and the clothing washed separately from other items if the contamination is a small amount.
4. Department Personnel may contact Mountain View Fire Department to use the industrial washer and dryer at one of their fire stations for contaminated clothing.

VI. SUPPLIES FOR INFECTIOUS PATHOGEN CONTROL

The department will provide supplies for Pathogen control. These supplies include:

1. N-95 masks and eye protective devices, coveralls, disposable gloves, barrier resuscitation equipment and booties;
2. Puncture-resistant and leak-proof containers for needles and other sharp objects;
3. Germicidal cleaner (a 1:10 bleach and water solution may be used);
4. Disposable antimicrobial wipes;
5. Cleaning materials; and
6. Waterproof bandages.

VII. EMPLOYEES EXPOSED TO PATHOGENS

- A. When an employee is exposed or presumed to have been exposed to a possible pathogen, the watch commander will fill out the appropriate workman's compensation forms. An incident report will be completed by the employee or their immediate supervisor.
- B. As soon as possible after exposure, if during normal business hours the employee will respond to the departmentally approved medical care provider, (see Appendix D, Attachment E of Directive 270.000 Traffic Accident Response), for evaluation or testing for infection and treatment, if needed. If outside of normal business hours, the employee should go to the nearest urgent care facility or emergency room.
 1. The involved employee will receive a copy of the medical provider's results as soon as possible after the completion of any tests.
 2. The department will ensure continued testing for evidence of infection and will provide necessary support to the affected employee.
 3. Records and reports regarding employee's possible exposures will be maintained in a separate confidential medical file, along with the employee's personnel file in a secure area and maintained according to law by the Human Resources department. The records may

not be discussed without written consent from the employee. The records shall include result of examinations, tests, health care provider written reports, follow-ups, and other information provided by the health care provider.

C. Any person responsible for potentially exposing a department member to a disease will be encouraged to undergo testing.

1. If consent is provided by the suspect for testing, an Erie Police Officer will transport the suspect to the nearest hospital or urgent care facility for a blood draw using a Tiger Top collection tube. The testing facility will provide the results directly to the victim officer.

2. If a suspect is combative or uncooperative at the time of their arrest, an Erie Police Department Detective will contact the suspect the following day to see if they will consent to testing. If consent is given, an Erie Police Officer will remove the suspect from jail and transport the suspect to the nearest hospital or urgent care facility for a blood draw using a Tiger Top collection tube.

3. If the suspect does not consent to testing, an Erie Police Department Detective will contact the Colorado Department of Health. Under CRS 25-4-1405 & 1406, the Department of Health has authority in certain cases to obtain an order for an involuntary blood draw from an arrestee.

4. Criminal charges may be brought against any person who intentionally exposes a department employee to a disease. An Erie Police Department Detective shall contact the appropriate DA's office about obtaining a search warrant to obtain a sample of the arrestee's blood.

VIII. TRAINING

A. The Department will ensure all employees are trained in the prevention and management of exposure to pathogens and infectious diseases. It shall be the employee's responsibility to review this departmental written directive.

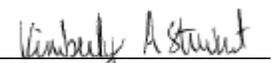
B. All employees will receive updated training when procedures are changed or modified.

RULES:

NONE

REFERENCES:

Lamar Police Department Policy and Procedure 2005


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Chief of Police