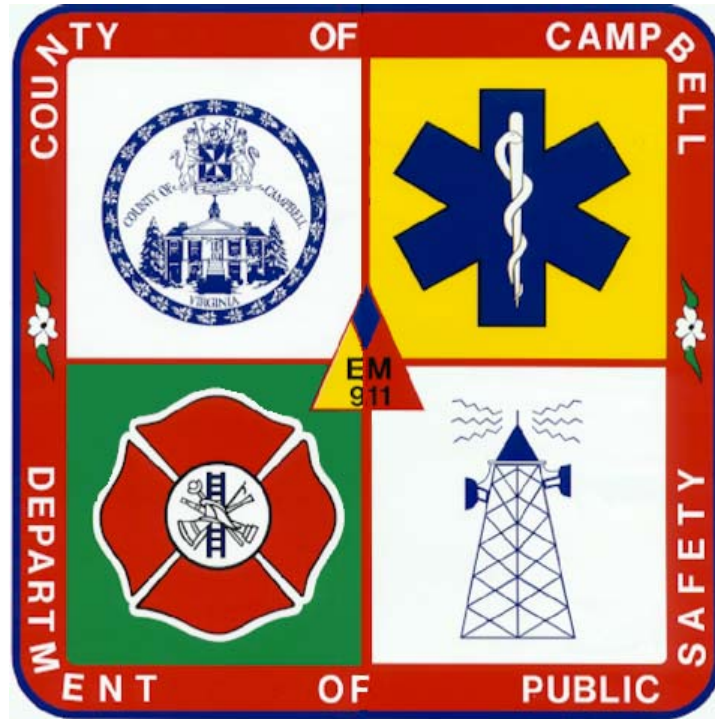


**Campbell County  
Department of Public Safety**

**EMS Division**



**Infection Control / Occupational Exposure Plan**

## **PURPOSE:**

To provide a comprehensive plan for any member/employee of the Campbell County Department of Public Safety, EMS Division who may, at any point in their required duties, have the potential for occupational exposure to blood or infectious materials. The purpose of this document is to minimize or eliminate member's/employee's exposure to communicable diseases while performing their duties.

## **APPLICABILITY:**

All members/employees of the of the Campbell County Department of Public Safety, EMS Division.

## **POLICY STATEMENT:**

Given the nature of work performed in the pre-hospital setting there is a reasonable occupational risk of exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials. While at no times may the risk for exposure be completely eliminated, proper steps and practices may be taken to reduce the risk. This document will serve as a guideline for the implementation of those practices.

## **PROCEDURES:**

Food or Drink shall not be permitted to be stored or transported in any patient compartment area of an ambulance, or in any work area where there is a reasonable likelihood of occupational exposure.

Personnel shall not eat, drink, smoke, chew tobacco, apply cosmetics, apply lip balm, or handle contact lenses in any patient compartment area of an ambulance, or in any work area where there is a reasonable likelihood of occupational exposure.

All procedures involving blood or other potentially infectious materials shall be performed in such a manner as to minimize splashing, spraying, spattering, and generation of droplets of these substances.

Personnel with extensive skin lesions or severe dermatitis on their hands, arms, head, face or neck, shall not engage in direct patient contact, handle patient care equipment or handle medical waste.

The Campbell County EMS Program Manager shall ensure this document is reviewed and updated annually.

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

### **Personal Protection**

Campbell County Department of Public Safety will ensure that the following equipment Personal Protective Equipment is available to all members, either through direct distribution and/or through ensuring that the following is made available on ambulances by the independent Rescue Squads of Campbell County:

1. Disposable examination gloves
2. Disposable surgical masks
3. Disposable gowns
4. Eye protection
5. Pocket mask with a one-way valve
6. Waterless hand cleaner or equivalent

Appropriate barrier protection shall be implemented whenever the possibility exists of occupational exposure. Disposable gloves shall be worn on all EMS calls where a likelihood of exposure exists for the care providers. During incidents such as motor vehicle accidents, personnel will wear the appropriate glove, i.e. latex or leather, consistent with the anticipated scene activity.

Masks and protective eyewear shall be worn in situations where airborne transmission of fluids or splashes of body fluids are likely to occur.

Gowns shall be worn during situations that are likely to generate splashes of blood or body fluids.

Adjunct respiratory devices shall be used to perform artificial ventilation.

Gloves shall be changed between the contacts of different patients.

Gloves shall be changed as soon as practical when they become contaminated, torn, or punctured.

Personnel shall wash their hands and any other exposed skin as soon as possible after the removal of gloves or other barrier protection. If the personnel are away from the station or medical facility, these body areas shall be cleaned with a waterless hand cleaner. As soon as feasible, personnel shall wash these body areas with soap and water.

Personnel shall wash as listed above or flush mucous membranes with water, immediately or as soon as possible following contact of these body areas with blood or other potentially infectious materials.

### **Waste Management**

Prior to placing an ambulance in service/available the employee/member will ensure that the following Waste Control Devices are available:

1. Waste container for the ambulance
2. Red biohazard bags
3. Needle/Sharps disposal container

When handling infectious waste, personnel shall wear appropriate barrier protection.

Infectious waste shall be handled in the following manner:

#### Scene Waste

1. Infectious waste at the scene shall be placed into a waste bag at the point of origin at which it was generated.
2. Picking up waste and carrying it to a waste container shall not be permitted.
3. Once all waste is placed into the waste bag, the waste bag shall be placed into the waste container on board the ambulance. If there is no ambulance at the scene, the waste bag shall be sealed and transported to the station or hospital and disposed of in the proper container.

#### Waste in Ambulance

1. Any infectious waste generated in the ambulance shall be placed in the vehicle's waste container.
2. Once the waste container is full, the liner should be removed at the hospital and disposed of in the proper container.

#### Linens

1. Linens, which have been contaminated, shall be placed in the appropriate container upon arrival at the receiving medical facility.
2. Contaminated linens that are not transferred to a medical facility shall be placed into a red waste bag at the site. The waste bag is to be sealed and transported back to the station or medical facility where it shall be placed into the proper waste container.

#### Needles/Sharps

1. At no time shall contaminated needles or other sharp instruments be recapped, bent, or broken. Contaminated needles shall not be removed from the syringe.
2. Contaminated needles/sharps shall be placed into an appropriate sharps container as soon as possible after each use.
3. Once a sharps container becomes full, the container is to be closed/sealed and taken to a medical facility for disposal. A new sharps container is to be placed back into service.

### **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

The following equipment shall be made available in each Station:

- 1) Disposable Gloves
- 2) Disposable gowns
- 3) Eye protection
- 4) Disposable masks
- 5) Disinfectant
- 6) Red waste bags

Areas that are used for the purpose of cleaning and disinfecting medical equipment and supplies shall be physically separate from area used for food preparation, cleaning of food and cooking utensils, personal hygiene, sleeping and living areas.

During any process of cleaning or disinfecting, gloves shall be worn. Additional barrier protection shall be worn proportionate to the magnitude of the cleaning task.

During any process of cleaning or disinfecting, personnel shall not eat, drink, smoke/smokeless tobacco, chew, apply cosmetics or lip balm, or handle contact lenses.

#### **Medical equipment and supplies-cleaning and disinfecting**

Any piece of reusable medical equipment or supply that has become soiled or contaminated shall be placed into a red waste bag when completed with use. This equipment shall remain in the waste bag until such time that it is to be cleaned and disinfected.

Metal and electronic equipment shall be cleaned and disinfected in accordance to manufactures' recommendations.

Disinfectant shall be used for the general maintenance and cleaning of the interior surfaces of the ambulance and the exterior equipment boxes that may have been handled with gloved hands.

#### **Uniforms-cleaning and disinfecting**

Uniforms/Street clothing shall not be considered as appropriate barrier protection.

#### **Spot cleaning**

If a small area of the station uniform becomes contaminated, spot cleaning of a garment is appropriate. The spot cleaning procedure is as follows:

- 1) Squirt pre-cleaner onto garment
- 2) Gently rub fabric together
- 3) Rinse with cool water

## **Laundering**

Uniforms that have been grossly contaminated with bodily fluids shall be removed as soon as possible and placed into a red waste bag until such time that it can be laundered at the departments designated laundering center.

- 1) Grossly contaminated uniforms shall not be taken home to be cleaned.
- 2) Contaminated uniforms shall be laundered as follows:
  - a. Wash contaminated clothing separately.
  - b. Wash in hot water with water setting at the highest level.
  - c. Wash garments using ½ cup oxygenated bleach, such as Liquid Clorox 2, and one cup liquid detergent such as Liquid Tide.
  - d. The washing machine should be programmed for normal cycle using second rinse.
  - e. DO NOT use chlorine bleach on station uniforms.

### Protective Clothing (Turnout Gear)-Cleaning and Disinfecting

Turnout Gear shall not be considered as appropriate barrier protection.

### Spot Cleaning

If a small area of the protective clothing becomes contaminated, spot cleaning of the garment is appropriate. The spot cleaning procedure for protective clothing is the same as for uniforms.

### Laundering of Protective Clothing

Protective clothing that has been grossly contaminated with bodily fluids shall be handled as follows:

- 1) Remove the garment as soon as possible
- 2) Rinse the garment to remove the majority of the contaminated material
- 3) Allow to dry
- 4) Follow manufactures guidelines for cleaning
- 5) Launder the gear at a site with a Turn out gear cleaning machine

## **IMMUNIZATION AND TESTING**

Campbell County Public Safety, EMS Division shall make available to all members the training regarding the Hepatitis B Vaccine as well as the Vaccine itself prior to any patient contact. The Hepatitis Vaccine shall be offered at no cost.

If the member has previously received vaccination against Hepatitis-B, and the anti-body testing reveals that the member is immune, or if the vaccine is contraindicated for medical reasons, the vaccine will not be made available.

If the member declines the Hepatitis-B vaccine the Refusal form shall be filled out completely.

If the member initially declines the Hepatitis-B Vaccine, but at a later date decides to accept the vaccination, the Campbell County Public Safety, EMS Division shall make the vaccination available at no cost.

If the U.S. Public Health Service ever recommends routine booster doses of the Hepatitis-B Vaccine, such doses shall be offered at no cost.

If during a routine physical or blood work a HBV titer shows you are not immune a booster shall be offered at no cost to the employee.

Campbell County Public Safety, EMS Division shall make available to all members the Influenza Vaccination between October and December of each year at no cost to the member.

Campbell County Public Safety, EMS Division shall make available to all members the tuberculosis (TB) skin test annually. Each member should sign consent or denial forms.

## Post Exposure Plan

### Definition:

An exposure translates into contact with an infectious agent, such as blood or bodily fluids that have the potential to contain blood in it, through inhalation, percutaneous inoculation, or contact with an open wound, non-intact skin or mucous membrane. **PLEASE NOTE THAT CONTACT OF BLOOD OR BODILY FLUIDS ONTO INTACT SKIN DOES NOT SIGNIFY AN EXPOSURE.**

Any member who has an exposure incident will comply with the following:

Wash the exposed area well with soap and water and approved cleaner. In the event of mucous membrane exposure, such as blood in eyes, flush the eyes with water as soon as feasible.

Upon arriving to the accepting facility, report the exposure to the physician responsible for the source individual's medical care. Ensure that their personnel complete the appropriate post-exposure documentation at the receiving medical facility.

The Campbell County Public Safety, EMS Division Post-Exposure Form shall be completed within 24 hours.

The Designated Officer shall be notified of the event immediately upon returning to the station.

The Campbell County Public Safety, EMS Division shall ensure that:

The exposed member is sent to an approved physician as soon as feasible so that baseline examinations can be performed and/or baseline blood samples drawn.

The results of the source individual's tests are communicated to the exposed member.

Any post-exposure prophylaxis, treatment or counseling is provided to the exposed member as indicated, at no cost to the member.

## **Personnel Training and Record Keeping**

The Campbell County Department of Public Safety, EMS Division shall provide annual training to all members/employees, concerning communicable diseases. The training shall include, but not be limited to, the following topics.

- 1) Any changes in policy or procedure that effect occupational exposure
- 2) Explanation of OSHA regulations and other related material
- 3) Explanation of modes of transmission and symptoms of communicable diseases
- 4) Explanation of use and limitations of barrier protection devices and preventive practices

Information on types, basis of proper selection, proper use, location, removal, handling, decontamination and disposal of personal protection equipment.

- 1) All information regarding Hepatitis-B vaccines
- 2) Explanation of the procedure to follow if an exposure incident occurs
- 3) Information regarding the post-exposure evaluation
- 4) Information and explanation concerning hazardous communications and labeling

This training will be made at no cost to members.

The Designated Officer(s) shall submit to the employee/members EMS files a certificate of completion of the above training.

The EMS Program Manager shall ensure that the above training records are maintained for a period of not less than 3 years from the date the training occurred.