



FOREST LAKES FIRE DISTRICT INFECTION CONTROL PROGRAM POLICY NUMBER 0010



Purpose

It is the goal of the Forest Lakes Fire Department to adequately protect all members from the risk of acquiring or transmitting communicable diseases, not only during emergency incidents, but also in all work environments.

The Department recognizes the potential exposure of its members to communicable diseases in the performance of their duties. In the emergency care setting, the infectious disease status of patients is frequently unknown by department personnel. All patients must be considered infectious. Preventative measures against infection from airborne, blood and other bodily fluid pathogens must be taken with all patients.

Definitions

Infectious diseases: Diseases caused by pathogenic microorganisms, such as bacteria, viruses, parasites or fungi that can be spread, directly or indirectly, from one person to another.

Highly contagious disease (also known as Highly Infectious Disease (HID)): Diseases that can be readily transmitted from an infected individual through contact or non-contact association. During outbreaks of these epidemics heightened safety, restrictions and procedures may be mandated by the Department, including isolation and closures.

Policy

To minimize the risk exposure, the Department will provide gloves, face masks, gowns and eyeglasses, and will provide the necessary cleaning and disinfecting supplies. The Department will provide instructions and continuing education in preventive health care practices so that the firefighters and EMT's possess and awareness of infectious diseases, understands the risks and severity of various types of exposures, and exhibits proper skills in infection control. All equipment that could come in contact with a patient will be kept in a sanitized state both before and after use, including medical supplies, stretchers, transport chairs, ambulances and bedding.

Necessary immunization will be made available to protect members from potential exposures to infectious disease and standard medical treatment will be given to exposed members.

Members will report any actual or suspected exposure to a contagious disease to the Designated Officer for Infectious Diseases for investigation of patient information to determine the possible presence of communicable disease and the need for treatment of the exposed individual. In addition, any departmental member who is feeling ill must



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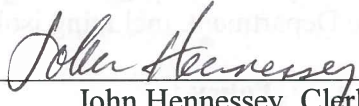
report his/her condition to the Department prior to going on duty. If the senior staff member has concerns that member may be temporarily suspended until his/her condition improves to the Department's satisfaction.

Initiation of documentation is the employee's responsibility. The Department will maintain a record of exposure and treatment in each employee's confidential medical file.

These procedures are designed to prevent infection from occurring in both patients and Department members. By necessity infection control is a pro-active approach to managing the risks associated with all communicable diseases.

Each year the Fire Department will put on a class on blood borne and airborne pathogens and on infectious control. It is each member's responsibility to see that they attend this mandatory class.

Approved by the Forest Lakes Fire District Board on: 06/20/2020.



John Hennessey, Clerk