

Management of Communicable Diseases

987.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides general guidelines to minimize the risk of youth contracting and/or spreading communicable diseases, as well as guidelines for diagnosing and treating communicable disease among the youth population.

987.2 AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES

- Board of State and Community Corrections Title 15 § 1410;
- Riverside County Correctional Health Services Policy;
- Welfare and Institutions Code §§ 209, 210 & 885.

987.3 POLICY

The Riverside County Probation Department in cooperation with the local health officer is committed to addressing and minimizing the risks associated with communicable diseases among the youth population. The Chief Probation Officer and the responsible physician shall develop written policies and procedures.

987.4 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Communicable disease - A human disease caused by microorganisms present in and transmissible through human blood, bodily fluid, or tissue, or by breathing or coughing. These diseases commonly include but are not limited to COVID, hepatitis B virus (HBV), HIV, and tuberculosis.

Exposure - When an eye, the mouth, a mucous membrane, or non-intact skin comes into contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials or when these substances are injected or infused under the skin; when an individual is exposed to a person who has a disease that can be passed through the air by talking, sneezing, or coughing (e.g., tuberculosis); or when an individual is in an area that was occupied by such a person. If uncertain, the Correctional Health Services Physician will determine whether an incident meets the definition of an exposure.

987.5 PROCEDURE

- (a) A juvenile facilities response plan shall be developed and implemented (when applicable) by facility managers in cooperation with collateral agency personnel. The response plan shall contain the following sections:
 1. Introduction;
 2. Plan development timeline;
 3. Facility plans;

Riverside County Probation Department

Policy Manual

Management of Communicable Diseases

4. Facility supplies;
 5. Correctional Health Services (CHS) workflow;
 6. Health, social distancing, and education guideline;
 7. Cleaning protocols and templates;
 8. Court related information;
 9. Manager/Supervisor resources;
 10. Operational memorandums; and
 11. Any other pertinent information.
- (b) The juvenile facilities response plan shall be updated periodically to include updated available information, reflect communicable disease priorities identified by the county health officer, and current recommended public health interventions.
- (c) The Correctional Health Services (CHS) Physician shall prepare procedures related to communicable diseases that include (15 CCR 1410):
1. Relevant symptoms exposure prevention and decontamination procedures.
 2. Procedures for when and how youth may obtain medical attention if there is an exposure or suspected exposure.
 3. Procedures related to mitigating the risks associated with communicable disease in the youth population. These will include but are not limited to:
 - A. Proper screening of incoming youth.
 - B. Appropriate testing.
 - C. Investigations of suspected exposures.
 - D. Appropriate medical attention and precautions to be used by staff, including separating or isolating youth appropriately (15 CCR 1430).
 - E. Sanitation and youth hygiene efforts, including the sanitation of medical equipment.
 - F. Control of vermin and parasites, such as mice, lice, and bedbugs.
 - G. Reporting communicable diseases and suspected exposures to the proper authorities.
 - H. Compliance with all relevant laws or regulations related to communicable diseases, including:
 - i. Responding to requests and notifications regarding exposures covered under the Ryan White law (42 USC § 300ff-133; 42 USC § 300ff-136);
 - ii. Coordinating with community-based resources for follow-up treatment of youth exposed to communicable diseases (15 CCR 1410);

Management of Communicable Diseases

- iii. Developing strategies for handling communicable disease outbreaks (15 CCR 1410);
- (d) Coordinating with the county health officer to develop and provide appropriate health education and disease prevention programs to youth. The education program shall be updated as necessary to address current health priorities and to meet the needs of the youth population (15 CCR 1415).
- (e) The Correctional Health Services Physician shall periodically review and update these procedures as appropriate and necessary to reflect the communicable disease priorities identified by the county health officer and recommended public health interventions (15CCR 1410).

987.6 SUSPECTED EXPOSURE OF A YOUTH

- (a) Staff who learn that a youth may have been exposed shall, as soon as practicable:
 - 1. Take steps to reduce exposure to other youth and begin decontamination procedures;
 - 2. Use precautions related to exposure prevention as applicable to the situation (e.g., gloves, face masks);
 - 3. Contact a qualified health care professional to care for the youth as needed and obtain recommendations regarding isolation or quarantine of the youth;
 - 4. Staff shall initiate the appropriate disease response plan as recommended by the health care professional; and
 - 5. Notify the duty officer.

987.7 DUTY OFFICER RESPONSE AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The responding duty officer shall investigate every exposure or suspected exposure of a youth as soon as reasonably practicable following notification.

The duty officer shall ensure the youth receives appropriate medical assistance and that steps are taken to protect other youth and staff.

All incidents involving a suspected exposure shall be documented in the Client Management System.

The duty officer shall notify the facility manager of the suspected exposure.

987.8 MEDICAL CONSULTATION, EVALUATION, AND TREATMENT

Any exposed youth shall have the opportunity to have a medical evaluation immediately after an exposure, plus follow-up evaluations as necessary.

Testing a youth for communicable diseases when that youth was the source of an exposure may be sought when appropriate. Source testing is the responsibility of the CHS Physician and will be conducted in accordance with applicable laws.

Riverside County Probation Department

Policy Manual

Management of Communicable Diseases

987.9 YOUTH CONFIDENTIALITY

Any information regarding youth and possible communicable diseases shall be considered confidential health care records (see Confidentiality and Release of Information Policy).

Date last reviewed: 05/29/2024

Date revised: 05/29/2024; 05/09/2022; 10/27/2021; 04/09/2019; and 04/06/2016.

Created: 03/01/2000

Attachments: None