

# **PINEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **GENERAL ORDER**

**SECTION: 10 OPERATION PROCEDURES**

**SUBJECT: 1002 BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS/VIRUS PANDEMIC**

**EFFECTIVE: 05/01/2020**

1. **PURPOSE.** Employees of the city provide services to citizens who may require employees to come into contact with bodily fluids, such as blood or other potentially infectious materials. This can occur as a regular part of the duties of emergency responders, firefighters and paramedics, law enforcement officers; a corrections officer, evidence handlers, health care workers, maintenance workers, or a person giving first aid to another. There are a variety of methods by which this exposure may occur.

2. **POLICY.** Exposure to a blood borne pathogen may lead to sickness such as hepatitis, AIDS, or malaria. The city wants to assure its employees of a safe and healthy work environment. It is the policy of the city to comply with all legal and regulatory obligations for the prevention of exposure to blood borne pathogens.

3. **UNIVERSAL HEALTH PRECAUTIONS AND WORK PRACTICES.** As recommended by public health authorities, the city will adhere to a program of universal precautions for protection against diseases spread by blood or bodily fluids. ("Bodily fluids" refers to fluids that may contain blood or feces, not urine, sweat, saliva or tears.) This means that, for safety purposes, employees will operate on the assumption that all blood and body fluids are potential carriers of a blood borne disease and will adhere to universal precautions protect against AIDS and other diseases. The following general precautions will be followed:

- A. Eating, drinking, smoking, applying cosmetics, lip balm or handling contact lenses are prohibited in the work areas, including field locations, where there is an anticipated exposure to blood borne pathogens.
- B. Any employee cleaning up a spill of blood or bodily fluids or rendering emergency medical assistance will wear appropriate protective gear (such as latex gloves and a mask);
- C. An employee rendering medical assistance, which may expose the employee to blood or bodily fluids, will take precautions against contamination (such as wearing latex gloves while bandaging a bleeding wound, or using a disposable mouthpiece for CPR. An employee exposed to blood or bodily fluids will scrub with soap and water, removing rings, watch and jewelry as soon as practical after providing medical assistance.
- D. Gloves and one-way CPR masks shall be available in all first aid kits.

4. **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS AND SPECIFIC SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.**

A. **Crime Scene Processing**

1. Wear appropriate protective gloves and clothing as necessary to prevent direct contact with blood and body fluids.
2. Utilize proper evidence collection techniques and exercise extreme Care when searching hidden areas, such as in dresser drawers, pockets, and any area that cannot be directly seen while searching.

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3. Refrain from eating, drinking and smoking or applying makeup at any contaminated scene. Also, be careful to keep hands away from face, especially the mouth and eyes when handling evidence or when in contact with fluids.

#### **B. Decontamination Procedures**

1. Members should properly dispose of any protective gloves and clothing used at the scene, and should thoroughly wash with a disinfectant.
2. Any equipment used at the crime scene should be decontaminated with an appropriate disinfectant before being handled or put away.
3. Precautions should be taken to decontaminate the scene of any suspected infected blood or body fluid to prevent contamination of other individuals.
4. Contaminated waste warnings should be issued to other agencies and personnel to whom the crime scene may be relinquished. Biohazard emblems shall be placed when and where appropriate.

#### **C. Evidence Handling**

1. Suspected contaminated material should be placed in proper containers and labeled with a biohazard emblem.
2. Contaminated evidence should be stored properly to prevent contamination of other items.
3. Contaminated evidence should be labeled with a biohazard emblem to warn anyone who may have contact with this evidence, such as lab personnel, medical examiner personnel, prosecutors, and anyone else who may have contact.

## **5. ARREST AND INCARCERATION AND SPECIFIC SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.**

#### **A. Arrest**

1. Protective gloves should be worn when handling persons believed to carry an infectious disease.
2. Safe search techniques should be utilized to avoid contact with contaminated body fluids or sharp objects. Needle sticks are a possible source of contamination and should be avoided.

#### **B. Transportation**

1. Special transportation options or measures should be considered for transporting prisoners suspected of being contaminated and/or who are soiled with blood or body fluids. This may include the use of a plastic sheet as a seat cover, or solitary transportation of prisoners contaminated with body fluids.
2. All vehicles used in such circumstances and prisoner clothing shall be properly decontaminated.

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#### **6. TREATING MEDICAL EMERGENCIES.**

- A. Use protective gloves and clothing as necessary to prevent contamination with blood or body fluids while treating patients.
- B. Use safe resuscitation equipment and decontamination procedures when administering CPR with a one-way CPR mask.
- C. Properly dispose of contaminated waste used to treat patients, such as gloves, airways, and other equipment.

#### **9. DEATH SCENE PROCESSING.**

- A. Wear appropriate protective gloves and clothing as necessary to prevent direct contact with blood and body fluids.
- B. Prior to transporting a body suspected of being contaminated with an infectious disease, notify the receiving agency.
- C. Follow necessary decontamination procedures for personnel and the scene.

**10. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT.** When an employee has an anticipated exposure to a blood borne pathogen and the exposure can not be controlled through redesign of work facilities, mechanical devices or barriers that isolate people from potentially infectious materials, or work practice controls, then personal protective equipment shall be provided.

- A. The equipment shall be provided at no cost to the employee and shall be decontaminated and/or replaced as necessary.
- B. Employees shall wear appropriate personal protective equipment whenever there is a potential for an exposure. Personal protective equipment is appropriate if it does not permit blood or other potentially infectious materials to pass through and come in contact with the employee's street clothes, undergarments or skin.
- C. Personal protective equipment selected shall be appropriate for the anticipated exposure. Some examples of personal protective equipment are latex (surgical) gloves, surgical masks, disposable mouthpiece for CPR, face-shields, disposable coveralls, and disposable boots.
- D. If the personal protective equipment is penetrated by blood or other potentially infectious materials, the personal protective equipment shall be removed immediately or as soon as feasible. All personal protective equipment shall be removed before leaving the work area, and placed into an appropriate designated area or container for storage, washing, decontamination, and/or disposal.
- E. If gloves are used for protection, the following precautions shall be taken:
  - a. Disposable gloves shall be replaced as soon as possible when contaminated.
  - b. Disposable gloves shall not be washed or decontaminated for reuse.

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- c. Reusable gloves may be decontaminated for reuse if the integrity of the glove is not compromised. Reusable gloves shall be thrown away if the glove is contaminated, cracked, torn, punctured, or when their ability to function as a barrier is compromised.
- F. Masks, eye and face protection shall be worn when there is an anticipated exposure to splashing, spraying, spatter of blood or other potentially infectious materials.
- G. Other body protection such as disposable coveralls, over-boots and aprons shall be worn when there is an anticipated exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials.

See Appendix Documents for VIRUS PANDEMIC PROTOCOLS

**By order of**

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Darrell Basco  
Chief of Police