

Chapter: Serious and Infectious Diseases	Effective Date: 4/15/17
Title: Prevention and Management of Communicable and Infectious Diseases	Page: 1 of 2
	Replaces: HHS.60.05, 7/15/11

(a) **Standard.**

Communicable and infectious diseases are effectively managed using early identification, treatment, reporting, and prevention of transmission, in accordance with the Texas Juvenile Justice Department's (TJJD's) [General Administrative Policies \(GAP\)](#), [Personnel Policies \(PRS\)](#), [Institution Health Services Procedures \(HSP\)](#), TJJD's [Workplace Guidelines: Precautions and Procedures to Reduce the Risk of Infection from Contagious Diseases, Including HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C](#) and the [Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan](#).

(b) **General Provisions.**

(1) **Prevention.**

Compliance with the following procedures and standard precautions helps to reduce the spread of infection.

- (A) Hand Washing – Hand washing is the most effective means of preventing any infection. A vigorous, 15-second washing with running water and soap is recommended. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer must be used to prevent the spread of infection.
- (B) Barrier Precautions – Intact skin is the most important barrier against potential infection. All skin breaks, rashes, open sores, and cuts must be covered with a clean, dry dressing or bandage. Change bandages as soon as possible if they become wet or soiled.
- (C) Disposable Gloves – Disposable gloves must be worn when there is a potential for exposure to blood or other bodily fluids.
- (D) Personal Hygiene – Youth should use a clean towel each day after showering and wipe between toes to prevent fungal infections. Shower shoes also help prevent the spread of infection.
- (E) Personal Items – Personal/hygiene items assigned to youth such as soap, tooth brushes, razors, shower shoes, makeup, deodorant, lip balm, and hair products are for individual use and must not be shared.
- (F) Cough/Sneeze Hygiene – Coughing/sneezing away from others and into the inner arm or a tissue helps to prevent the spread of airborne infections. Instruct youth to “Cover your cough.”
- (G) Razors and Needles/Medical Sharps – Refer to [HHS.60.10](#) for handling, storage, and disposal of potentially contaminated medical sharps and disposable razors.

(2) **Management.**

- (A) **All halfway house staff members** are responsible for complying with the following policies and procedures:
 - (i) [GAP.380.9197](#), *HIV/AIDS* – includes information on youth testing, staff training, confidentiality, reporting, and youth housing.
 - (ii) [PRS.23.05](#), *Occupational Exposure to Potentially Infectious Material* – includes information regarding steps to take (e.g., reporting, testing, medical follow-up, and workers' compensation requirements), if an employee is exposed to blood or other bodily fluids while performing job duties.

- (iii) [Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan](#) – outlines both prevention and follow up actions to take regarding occupational exposures by staff to a bloodborne pathogen.
 - (iv) [Workplace Guidelines: Precautions and Procedures to Reduce the Risk of Infection from Contagious Diseases, Including HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C](#) – includes information regarding standard precautions to prevent infection with HIV, hepatitis B (HBV), and hepatitis C (HCV); youth and dormitory search procedures; cleaning and decontamination; waste disposal; and spill kit/cleaning supplies.
- (B) The **institutional medical provider** and **nursing staff** are responsible for complying with [HSP, Chapter 7, Communicable and Infectious Disease Management](#), which describes general provisions and procedures for the medical and nursing management of HIV, tuberculosis (TB), hepatitis, and methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).
- (c) **Procedures.**
- (1) If a youth has a health concern:
 - (A) the **human services specialist (HSS)** or a **juvenile correctional officer** notifies the superintendent and the health services administrator (HSA) or the institution nurse;
 - (B) if indicated, the **institution nurse** schedules a visit with a health care provider;
 - (C) the **institution nurse** and the **superintendent** and/or **HSS** implement medical orders and appropriate environmental precautions, as outlined in *Workplace Guidelines: Precautions and Procedures to Reduce the Risk of Infection from Contagious Diseases, Including HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C*; and
 - (D) the **HSA** reports the health concern to the Texas Department of State Health Services, if applicable.
 - (2) If a staff member has a possible occupational exposure, that **staff member** must report the incident to his/her supervisor and to the local human resources administrator and follow the instructions in [PRS.23.05](#).
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