



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

APPLICABILITY  
**PRISON/REENTRY**  
FACILITY/SPANISH MANUAL

REVISION DATE  
6/3/22

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NUMBER  
**DOC 670.000**

# POLICY

TITLE  
**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE, INFECTION  
PREVENTION, AND IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM**

## REVIEW/REVISION HISTORY:

Effective: 8/30/06  
Revised: 1/14/08  
Revised: 8/17/09  
Revised: 1/10/11  
Revised: 3/1/12  
Revised: 5/1/15  
Revised: 7/7/21  
Revised: 6/3/22

## SUMMARY OF REVISION/REVIEW:

Updated terminology throughout  
III.D. and V.A.1. - Adjusted language for clarification

## APPROVED:

Signature on file

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**MARYANN CURL, MD**  
Chief Medical Officer

5/23/22

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Date Signed

Signature on file

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**DAVID FLYNN,**  
Assistant Secretary for Health Services

5/23/22

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**CHERYL STRANGE,** Secretary  
Department of Corrections

5/31/22

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

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**REFERENCES:**

DOC 100.100 is hereby incorporated into this policy; [RCW 70.02](#); [WAC 246-100-211](#); [WAC 246-101](#); [WAC 246-170](#); DOC 590.320 Residential Parenting Program; DOC 610.040 Health Screenings and Assessments; DOC 610.300 Health Services for Work Release Offenders; DOC 650.055 Needles, Syringes, and Hazardous Medical and Dental Instruments (RESTRICTED); DOC 890.030 Hazardous/Dangerous Waste Management; DOC 890.000 Safety Program; DOC 890.090 Respirator Program; DOC 890.130 Job Safety Analysis, Hazard Assessments, and Personal Protective Equipment; DOC 890.600 Bloodborne Pathogen Protection and Exposure Response; DOC-DOH Health, Environmental, & Safety Standards; DOC Exposure Control Guide; [Pharmaceutical Management and Formulary Manual](#); Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Protocol and Management of TB Disease; [Washington DOC Health Plan](#)

**POLICY:**

- I. The Department has established a Communicable Disease and Infection Prevention Program to ensure a safe and healthy environment for everyone.
- II. Health services employees/contract staff will consult with the Washington State Department of Health and respective county health departments in the prevention and management of communicable and infectious disease, when indicated.

**DIRECTIVE:**

- I. General Requirements
  - A. The Department will maintain:
    1. An Exposure Control Guide that includes procedures for employees and contract staff to eliminate or minimize exposure to pathogens, and
    2. A written pandemic plan that includes preparation and response procedures to mitigate the outbreak of a pandemic.
  - B. Each facility will have personal protective equipment readily available for use and provide the procedures, equipment, and supplies necessary to meet the requirements in:
    1. DOC-DOH Health, Environmental, & Safety Standards for environmental safety and sanitation,



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2. DOC 650.055 Needles, Syringes, and Hazardous Medical and Dental Instruments (RESTRICTED) for medical/dental equipment decontamination,
  3. DOC 890.000 Safety Program for prevention and training requirements,
  4. DOC 890.030 Hazardous/Dangerous Waste Management for the disposal of biohazardous and infectious waste,
  5. DOC 890.130 Job Safety Analysis, Hazard Assessments, and Personal Protective Equipment, and
  6. DOC 890.600 Bloodborne Pathogen Protection and Exposure Response for preventing the risk of exposure and cleanup of blood or body fluid spills.
- C. All employees and contract staff will use appropriate personal protective equipment and follow standard precautions unless instructed by health services or public health employees/contract staff to use additional precautions.
- D. If an individual has been diagnosed with a serious communicable disease, health services employees/contract staff will instruct correctional employees/contract staff on measures to prevent transmission if measures beyond standard precautions are necessary.
1. Individuals in a Reentry Center may be transferred to a Prison for care per DOC 610.300 Health Care for Work Release Offenders.
  2. Facilities will post visible signs that specify the type of precautions required when entering a cell/room as determined by the Infection Prevention Nurse (IPN).
- II. Screening and Identification
- A. Incarcerated individuals will be screened for infectious diseases per DOC 610.040 Health Screenings and Assessments and the Washington DOC Health Plan.
1. Individuals will be screened routinely for Tuberculosis (TB) and as required per the Tuberculosis Screening Protocol and Management of TB Disease.
- B. Screening will be conducted for incarcerated individuals at intake, unless refused, for:

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1. Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
2. Hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C
3. Gonorrhea, chlamydia, and trichomonas for all females and any males under 30 years of age

### III. Immunizations

- A. Immunizations will be provided to incarcerated individuals per the Washington DOC Health Plan and the Pharmaceutical Management and Formulary Manual.
  1. Before an immunization is administered, the individual will be provided information regarding possible adverse reactions including the current version of the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Vaccine Information Statements](#).
    - a. Administration of the vaccination and publication date of the Vaccine Information Statement provided to the individual will be documented on DOC 13-480 TB/Immunization Record.
- B. Before being assigned to work in Health Services, incarcerated individuals must complete the following. Individuals will be offered the COVID-19 vaccination, but it is not required.
  1. The hepatitis B series of immunizations or have a positive test for the hepatitis B surface antibody, and
  2. Influenza immunization appropriate for the upcoming influenza season, which will be required annually thereafter.
- C. Before being assigned to blood/body fluid or other potentially infectious material cleanup, incarcerated individuals must complete the:
  1. Hepatitis A total antibody, and
  2. Hepatitis A and/or B series of immunizations or have a positive test for the hepatitis B surface antibody.
- D. Incarcerated individuals at the Washington Corrections Center for Women should comply with immunization requirements in DOC 590.320 Residential Parenting Program.

### IV. Droplet/Airborne Respiratory Pathogens

- A. Health services employees/contract staff involved in the direct care of incarcerated individuals (e.g., inpatient unit/transportation officers) will be

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qualified in N95 mask and/or Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR) use per DOC 890.090 Respirator Program.

1. PAPRs may be used as an alternative for health services employees/contract staff who cannot wear N95 respirators due to existing medical conditions or facial hair.
2. During a pandemic response, employees/contract staff may be required to wear an N95 respirator and meet the necessary requirements.

#### V. Gastrointestinal Pathogens

- A. Individuals working in Food Services, who report or are observed to have a symptom(s) of an enteric (i.e., gastrointestinal) illness (e.g., nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, yellow eyes), will be removed from work until evaluated and cleared by Health Services.
  1. If a gastrointestinal pathogen is suspected, a Health Status Report will be completed for the duration of the illness.

#### VI. Treatment

- A. Individuals diagnosed with acute or chronic communicable diseases will receive prompt care, treatment, and medical isolation per the Washington DOC Health Plan, Department policy or protocol, and other recognized standards and guidelines using current infection prevention standards.
- B. Before being released into the community from a Prison or Reentry Center, health services or Reentry Center employees/contract staff will ensure continuity of care with available appropriate community resources is established.

#### VII. Prison Infection Prevention Committee

- A. Each Prison will have an Infection Prevention Committee to oversee communicable disease and infection prevention practices. This committee will meet at least quarterly.
  1. Members of the committee will include:
    - a. Facility Medical Director or clinical designee,
    - b. IPN or clinical designee,
    - c. Health Services Manager or administrative designee, and
    - d. Representative from custody.

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2. Regular membership and participation will also be sought from each clinical discipline, food service, lab, safety, physical plant, and facility administration.

B. Functions of the Infection Prevention Committee include:

1. Tracking communicable and infectious diseases, including conditions that require reporting, and identifying trends.
2. Submission of proposals to decrease incidence of communicable disease.
3. Evaluation of the facility's application of standard precautions, cleaning and disinfecting techniques, and the disposal of medical sharps and biohazardous waste.

C. Minutes of the Infection Prevention meetings will be submitted to the Health Services Manager/designee.

VIII. Reporting

A. Communicable and infectious diseases are reported to the Washington Department of Health per WAC 246-101 and the Department of Health [Notifiable Conditions Reporting](#) list. Prisons will also notify the facility's Infection Prevention Committee.

1. The IPN or treating practitioner will notify the local health jurisdiction in the county where the individual is housed of any reportable condition.
2. Disease reporting telephone numbers are available on the Department of Health [Local Health Jurisdiction Communicable Disease Reporting Lines](#). If no one can be reached at the local health jurisdiction and a condition requires immediate reporting, the IPN or treating practitioner will call the 24-hour reporting line at 1-877-539-4344.
3. Reentry Center employees/contract staff will work with Headquarters health services employees/contract staff as necessary to ensure proper reporting.

IX. Training and Education

- A. Employees will be provided training in communicable diseases and infection prevention in new employee training and on an annual basis.
- B. Incarcerated individuals will be provided information about transmission and methods to prevent future infection of self or others.

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1. HIV, viral hepatitis, TB, and sexually transmitted infection education is available to individuals anytime during their incarceration.

**DEFINITIONS:**

The following words/terms are important to this policy and are defined in the glossary section of the Policy Manual: Tuberculosis (TB). Other words/terms appearing in this policy may also be defined in the glossary.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

**DOC FORMS:**

DOC 13-480 TB/Immunization Record