



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

APPLICABILITY
DEPARTMENT WIDE

EFFECTIVE DATE
10/18/23

PAGE NUMBER
1 of 4

NUMBER
DOC 890.500

POLICY

TITLE
INFECTION PREVENTION AND REPORTING

REVIEW/REVISION HISTORY:

Effective: 10/18/23

SUMMARY OF REVISION/REVIEW:

New policy. Read carefully!

APPROVED:

Signature on file

CHERYL STRANGE, Secretary
Department of Corrections

9/22/23
Date Signed

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REFERENCES:

DOC 100.100 is hereby incorporated into this policy; [RCW 43.20.050](#); [WAC 246-100](#); [WAC 246-101](#); [WAC 246-170](#); DOC 670.000 Communicable Disease, Infection Prevention, and Immunization Program; DOC 890.090 Respirator Program; DOC 890.130 Job Safety Analysis, Hazard Assessments, and Personal Protective Equipment; DOC 890.200 Employee Occupational Health Records; DOC 890.600 Bloodborne Pathogen Protection and Exposure Response; DOC 890.610 Tuberculosis Program for Employees, Contract Staff, and Volunteers; [CDC Diseases and Conditions](#); [CDC Vaccine Information Statements](#); Communicable Disease Table; Exposure Control Guide

POLICY:

- I. The Department has established an Infection Prevention Program and reporting requirements to prevent the transmission of infection between employees, contract staff, volunteers, and incarcerated individuals and provide a safe and healthy environment in alignment with statute, Governor's Executive Order, and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Washington State Department of Health (DOH) guidelines.

DIRECTIVE:

- I. General Requirements
 - A. Employees, contract staff, and volunteers will be aware of and meet requirements in the following to prevent and respond to communicable disease exposure:
 1. The Department's Exposure Control Guide located on the internal website
 2. DOC 670.000 Communicable Disease, Infection Prevention, and Immunization Program
 3. DOC 890.130 Job Safety Analysis, Hazard Assessments, and Personal Protective Equipment
 4. DOC 890.600 Bloodborne Pathogen Protection and Exposure Response
 - B. Employees, contract staff, and volunteers must meet vaccination, screening, and/or testing requirements that have been identified as conditions of employment or components of their position.
 1. Newly hired persons may be required to have a new hire health screening, applicable annual screenings, and immunizations/diagnostics.

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2. Annual screening and testing will be conducted per DOC 890.610 Tuberculosis Program for Employees, Contract Staff, and Volunteers.
3. Persons who receive an immunization from the Department will be provided with the current version of the applicable CDC Vaccine Information Statement before the dose is administered.
 - a. Administration of the vaccination and publication date of the Vaccine Information Statement provided to employees will be documented and maintained per DOC 890.200 Employee Occupational Health Records.
- C. The Occupational Health and Wellness Unit (OHWU) will provide appropriate referrals, testing, education, and guidance to employees/contract staff who may have been exposed to a communicable disease in the workplace.

II. Exposure

- A. When exposed to or diagnosed with a contagious disease identified in the Communicable Disease Table posted on the Occupational Health section of the Department's internal website, employees/contract staff/volunteers:
 1. Should consult their healthcare provider for treatment recommendations,
 2. Must not report to work until they present medical documentation showing they no longer present a risk of spreading the infection, and have been evaluated by an appropriate healthcare provider and are cleared to work, and
 3. Must report any diagnosis of a communicable disease to their local Human Resources (HR) per the Communicable Disease Table.
- B. Local HR will notify OHWU of any potential exposure to a contagious disease. The OHWU and the Infection Prevention Nurse (IPN)/designee at each applicable facility will work together to mitigate potential exposures.
 1. When appropriate, assistance and/or guidance may be requested from the patient's physician, the Infection Control Medical Director/Consultant, and/or the OHWU Medical Director.
 2. The OHWU will work with the Reentry Center Medical Consultant for infection prevention at Reentry Centers.
 3. The Appointing Authority/designee will:

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- a. Provide the OHWU with a list of potentially exposed persons when suspected transmission of a communicable disease has occurred.
- b. Make appropriate notifications to include referring any employees/contract staff/volunteers who may have been exposed to their medical provider and/or the OHWU for further guidance.
- C. Facilities will visibly post signs that specify the type of precautions required when entering a location as determined by the IPN/designee.
- D. During a pandemic response, employees/contract staff/volunteers may be required to wear an N95 mask and/or Powered Air Purifying Respirator and meet the necessary requirements in DOC 890.090 Respirator Program.
- E. The OHWU will notify the local health department in the event of a communicable disease outbreak.

III. Training and Education

- A. Department employees and contract staff will receive Infectious Disease Control training during New Employee Orientation or Correctional Worker Core, which includes identification, signs and symptoms, prevention of transmission, and an understanding of the purpose of any screening.
- B. Volunteers will receive informational training on infectious disease control during the volunteer orientation process.
- C. Annual refresher training will be provided to all employees and will be available to contract staff and volunteers as needed.

DEFINITIONS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

None

DOC FORMS:

None