

**Delaware Health and Social Services
Division of Developmental Disabilities Services
Community Services/Adult Special Populations**

Title: Communicable Diseases

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Written/Revised by: Policy & Records Committee

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This policy replaces the June 2000 Infection Control policy.

I. PURPOSE

To establish requirements that individuals who are at risk of/or have contracted a communicable disease receive timely and effective treatment. Proper infection control measures shall occur as well as required notification of communicable diseases to the Division of Public Health.

II. POLICY

Community Services/Adult Special Populations (CS/ASP) endorses the proper use of appropriate infection control measures in order to minimize the risk of exposure to communicable diseases, as well as the prompt treatment of individuals who have communicable diseases.

III. APPLICATION

CS/ASP staff, contracted agency staff, and shared living providers.

IV. DEFINITIONS

- A. Communicable Disease: An infectious disease that can be transmitted from person to person, or animal to person. Other similar terms used interchangeably are contagious disease and infectious disease.
- B. Contact: A person who has been potentially exposed to a communicable disease. Exposure may occur through their proximal association or physical contact with an infected person, infected animal, or a contaminated environment or surface.
- C. Notifiable Disease: A communicable disease or condition required to be reported to the Division of Public Health in accordance with state public health regulations. Refer to Exhibit A for complete list.

V. STANDARDS

- A. Individuals exhibiting symptoms of a communicable disease shall be examined by a physician or nurse practitioner as soon as arrangements can be made.
- B. Individuals shall receive treatment as prescribed by their physician or nurse practitioner.
- C. Notifiable diseases should be reported by the physician or nurse practitioner to the appropriate Division of Public Health official pursuant to the referenced *Regulations for the Control of Communicable and Other Disease Conditions* (Exhibit A).

- D. Staff who are aware of an individual's potential exposure to a communicable disease shall report such to the assigned nurse/on-call designee, prior to the end of his/her working shift.
- E. Communicable diseases shall be immediately reported to the Assigned Nurse/on-call designee; refer to Exhibits A for list of relevant communicable diseases. The Assigned Nurse in consultation with the Nurse Supervisor or Statewide Nursing Administrator should review specifics of the case to assure proper clinical follow-up and appropriate infection control measures are instituted.
- F. The nurse supervisor shall contact the appropriate Division of Public Health (DPH) office to assure that any notifiable disease has been properly reported. If such reporting has not taken place; then the nurse supervisor should inform the Statewide Nursing Administrator, who will consult with the DDDS Medical Director.
- G. As needed, a consult from the DDDS Medical Director can be obtained.
- H. CS/ASP staff, contracted agency staff, and shared living providers shall ensure compliance of established infection control policies, such as the Sanitizing and Infection Control policy, for the management of the individual's disease, environment, and contacts, as directed by established Health Care Service Protocols/CS policies. Any required treatment shall be received through accessing the individual's primary health care provider.
- I. When a communicable disease is diagnosed in an individual receiving residential or day service, any required training of applicable staff shall be immediately completed by a designated health care practitioner or DDDS Nurse/Designee as assigned by the Nurse Supervisor or Statewide Nursing Administrator.

VI. REFERENCES

1. Delaware Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health. (2006, February). *Regulations for the Control of Communicable and Other Disease Conditions. Document No. 35-05-20/06/09/05.*
2. Delaware Long Term Care Residents Protection Guidelines. (2007, April). *Delaware Regulations for Neighborhood Homes for Persons with Developmental Disabilities.*
3. Community Services/Adult Special Populations policy; Sanitizing and Disinfection

VII. SYNOPSIS

This policy explains the requirements for ensuring that people who are at risk of or have contracted a communicable disease receive treatment in a timely and effective manner, infection control measures are taken and proper reporting of notifiable diseases are made to the Division of Public Health.

VIII. EXHIBITS

- A. State of Delaware List of Notifiable Diseases

EXHIBIT A

STATE OF DELAWARE LIST OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (S)	Human Papillomavirus (S) Influenza
Amoebiasis	Influenza Associated Infant Mortality (T)
Anthrax (T)	Kawasaki Syndrome
Arboviral human infections (including West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, etc...)	Lead Poisoning Legionellosis
Babesiosis	Leptospirosis
Botulism (T)	Listeriosis
Brucellosis (T)	Lyme Disease
Campylobacteriosis	Lymphogranuloma venereum (S)
Chancroid (S)	Malaria
Chickenpox (Varicella); including Herpes Zoster	Measles (T)
Chlamydia (S)	Melioidosis
Cholera (toxigenic Vibrio cholerae 01 or 0139 (T)	Meningitis Meningococcal Infections (all types) (T)
Coccidioidomycosis	Money Pox (T)
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (T) Cryptosporidiosis	Mumps (T) Norovirus
Cyclosporiasis Cytomegalovirus (neonatal only)	Nosocomial (Healthcare Associated) Disease Outbreak (T)
Dengue Fever (T) Diphtheria (T)	Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (N. gonorrhoea, C. trachomatis, or unspecified) (S)
Enterohemorrhagic E. Coli including but not limited to E. Coli 0157:H7 (T)	Pertussis (T) Plague (T)
Ehrlichiosis	Poliomyelitis (T)
Encephalitis	Psittacosis
Enterococcus species, Vancomycin resistant (A)	Q Fever
ESBL resistance (Extended-Spectrum B-lactamases) (A)	Rabies (man, animal) (T) Reye Syndrome
Foodborne Disease Outbreaks (T)	Rheumatic Fever
Giardiasis	Ricin Toxin (T)
Glanders (T)	Rickettsial Disease
Gonorrhoea (S)	Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
Granuloma inguinale (S)	Rubella
Guillain-Barre	Rubella (congenital) (T)
Hansen's Disease (Leprosy)	Salmonellosis
Hantavirus (T)	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) (T)
Haemophilus influenzae, invasive	Shigatoxin Production
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (T)	Shigellosis
Hepatitis A (T) Hepatitis B	Silicosis Smallpox (T)
Hepatitis C	Staphylococcal Enterotoxin (T)
Hepatitis Other Herpes (congenital) (S)	Staphylococcal aureus, Methicillin Resistant (MRSA) (A)
Herpes (genital) (S) Histoplasmosis	Staphylococcal aureus, Vancomycin Intermediate or Resistant (VISA, VRSA) (T) (A)
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) (S)	Streptococcal Disease, invasive group A or B (T)

Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive (sensitive and resistant (A))	Typus Fever (endemic flea borne, louse borne, tick borne)
Syphilis (S)	Vaccine Adverse Reaction
Tetanus (T)	Vibrio, non-cholera
Toxic Shock Syndrome (Streptococcal or Staphylococcal)	Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (T)
Toxoplasmosis	Waterborne Disease Outbreaks (T)
Trichinellosis	Yellow Fever (T)
Tuberculosis (T)	Yersiniosis
Tularemia (T)	
Typhoid Fever (T)	

(T) eport by rapid means (telephone, fax or other electronic means)

(S) Sexually transmitted disease, report required within 24 hours

(A) Drug Resistant Organisms required to be reported within 48 hours

Others – report required within 48 hours