


<b>CHAPTER</b> Human Resources	<b>CHAPTER</b> 05	<b>SECTION</b> 003	<b>SUBJECT</b> 15
<b>SECTION</b> Health and Safety		<b>DESCRIPTION</b> Universal Precautions/Standard Precautions	
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**APPLICATION:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CMH Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Board Members	<input type="checkbox"/> Provider Network	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employment Services Providers
<input type="checkbox"/> Employment Services Provider Agencies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Independent Contractors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interns
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunteers			

**POLICY:**

Lapeer County Community Mental Health (LCCMH) uses Universal Precautions and Standard Precautions as required for effective infection prevention and control.

**STANDARDS:**

- A. Employees in an occupation where they are potentially exposed to bodily fluids are at risk for exposure to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), Hepatitis C Virus (HVC), and/or other bloodborne pathogens. Employees may also be exposed to pathogens infecting the respiratory system through contact with infectious respiratory secretions on surfaces or in the air.
- B. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has called for implementation of Universal Precautions as the most effective method to block the transmission of HIV, HBV, HVC, or other bloodborne pathogens when there is risk of exposure to blood and/or body fluids.

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C. Universal Precautions are followed by LCCMH persons served and staff when they have direct contact with bodily fluids and according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Standards.

D. Standard Precautions are followed for all person served care. According to the CDC guidelines, Standard Precautions are the minimum infection prevention practices applying to all persons served in any setting where health care is delivered.

**PROCEDURES:**

A. All individuals are presumed to be infected or potentially contagious for either identified or unidentified diseases. Disease producing agents may be transmitted from one person to another through contact with blood, mucous membranes, sputum, urine, feces or other body fluids. Infection control precautions are taken with all blood and body fluids.

B. During periods of outbreak of serious respiratory illness, or when a serious respiratory illness is suspected or confirmed with an individual, appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE) is utilized to help prevent transmission between individuals. The potentially infected individual and any person they may come in contact with use a mask.

C. When a potential for occupational exposure exists, LCCMH provides protective clothing and equipment appropriate to prevent such exposure at no expense to the employee.

D. Staff use appropriate barrier precautions to prevent skin and mucous membrane exposure when contact with blood or other body fluids of any person served is anticipated.

E. Hand washing is LCCMH's primary means for stopping the spread of infection. Employees wash hands:

1. before and after using the restroom
2. before and after eating

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3. after using tissues
4. before and after any physical contact with persons served
5. after assisting persons served with personal hygiene
6. immediately after discarding gloves
7. when becoming contaminated or soiled with blood or body fluids and after handling any object contaminated or soiled with blood or body fluids

F. Gloves are worn when staff:

1. have contact with blood or body fluids, mucous membranes or broken skin is a possibility.
2. assist with tooth brushing.
3. assist with toileting. Gloves are then discarded and hands washed before leaving area.
4. conduct invasive procedures, such as blood drawing or injections.
5. perform instrumental and digital examination of mouth and throat.
6. examine and/or handle abraded, non-intact skin or persons served with active bleeding.
7. have cuts, abraded skin, chapped hands, dermatitis, or any other loss of skin integrity.
8. handle laboratory specimens, soiled linen, and clothing which have been contaminated with blood and/or other body fluids.
9. clean up and decontaminate blood, body fluids and feces.

G. Gloves are changed and proper hand hygiene performed when transition between physical contact with persons served.

H. Breaks in the skin (such as cuts, scrapes and abrasions, or open lesions) are kept clean and covered to prevent entry or transmission of infectious organisms.

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- I. Staff using sharps must take precautions to prevent injuries. After using syringes and needles, do not recap, bend, break or manipulate by hand.
- J. Staff and persons served dispose of all sharps in a biohazard puncture-resistant container clearly labeled for that purpose.
- K. Clothing of persons served with blood or body fluids are treated as if it were contaminated with an infectious agent and are handled as little as possible and with minimal agitation. When it must be handled, it is handled with gloves, placed in a leak-proof plastic bag, labeled with the name of the person served, the contents, and sent home with the person served.
- L. Agency linens and towels contaminated with blood or body fluids are handled with gloves and placed in a leak proof plastic biohazard bag, and labeled. Linen is laundered using detergent.
- M. Gowns, aprons or lab coats are worn when splashes with blood and/or body fluids are likely to occur on clothing.
- N. Masks and eye protectors or face shields are worn when splashes or aerosolization of blood and/or body fluids are likely to occur with contamination of mucosal membranes (eyes, mouth or nose). Masks and eye protectors are not required for routine care.
- O. Standard Precautions require masks to be worn when a person exhibits symptoms of respiratory infection or when there is an expectation of possible exposure to infectious material.
- P. Pocket masks, resuscitation bags or other ventilation devices are provided in all first aid boxes and to key personnel where the need for resuscitation is likely.

**DEFINITIONS:**

Body Fluids: Fluid recognized by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as directly linked to the transmission of HIV (blood, semen, blood products, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluids, synovial fluid, pericardial fluid, amniotic fluid) and concentrated HIV or HBV viruses and to which universal precautions apply.

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Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA): An agency of the United States Department of Labor, ensuring safe and healthful working conditions by setting and enforcing standards, and by providing training, outreach, education and assistance.

Respiratory Secretions: Body fluids found in the upper and lower respiratory tract, such as mucus, saliva and nasal secretions. These may potentially contain pathogens that can be transmitted through coughing, sneezing, and/or breathing.

Standard Precautions: Precautions used for all patient care, based on an assessment of risk and making use of common sense practices and personal protective equipment by protecting health care providers from infection and preventing the spread of infection to others.

Universal Precautions: A system of infectious disease control which assumes every direct contact with body fluids is infectious and requires every employee exposed to direct contact with body fluids to be protected as though such body fluid were infected.

Sharps: is a medical term for devices with sharp points or edges that can puncture or cut skin.

**REFERENCES:**

- A. Bloodborne Pathogens Universal Precautions Standard 29 CFR 1910.1030
- B. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Standard Precautions for All Patient Care
- C. Occupational Safety and Health Administration Universal Precautions and Bloodborne Pathogens.

**EXHIBIT:**

Health-Care Facility Recommendations for Standard Precautions: Key Elements at a Glance (World Health Organization)

SW:lr

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This policy supersedes  
#02/00015 dated 02/27/2000.  
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