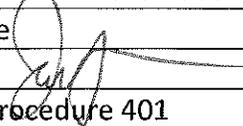




VERMONT

401

DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Family Services Division
Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center

Chapter:	Treatment, Health Care and Nutrition Services	
Subject:	General Health Practice	Page 1 of 4
Approved:	Jay Simons, Director 	Effective: 4/11/18
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Purpose

Infection is caused by pathogens ('bugs') such as bacteria, viruses, protozoa or fungi getting into or onto the body. It can take some time before the microbes multiply enough to trigger symptoms of illness, which means an infected person may unwittingly be spreading the disease during this incubation period. Infection control in Woodside aims to prevent pathogens from coming into contact with a person in the first place that starts with good health practices.

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Related Policies

Woodside Policy and Procedure 405a on Bloodborne Pathogens

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Introduction

Transmission of infection

Infectious agents can be spread in a variety of ways, including:

- **Airborne** - coughs or sneezes release airborne pathogens, which are then inhaled by others.
- **Contaminated objects or food** - the pathogens in a person's feces may be spread to food or other objects, if their hands are dirty.
- **Skin-to-skin contact** - the transfer of some pathogens can occur through touch, or by sharing personal items, clothing or objects.
- **Contact with body fluids** - pathogens in saliva, urine, feces or blood can be passed to another person's body via cuts or abrasions, or through the mucus membranes of the mouth and eyes.

Risk

The basis of good infection control in the workplace is to assume that everyone is potentially infectious.

Procedure

Proper procedures must followed at all times. Each living unit has an appropriate first aid kit. Equipment such as gloves, gowns, eye goggles and face shields are provided if necessary.

Hygiene Practices

Staff will practice infection control procedures relating to good personal hygiene including:

- **Hand washing** - the spread of many pathogens can be prevented with regular hand washing. Thoroughly wash your hands with water and soap for at least 15 seconds after visiting the toilet, before preparing food, and after touching residents or equipment. Dry your hands with disposable paper towels.
- **Unbroken skin** - intact and healthy skin is a major barrier to pathogens. Cover any cuts or abrasions with a waterproof dressing.
- **Gloves** - wear gloves if you are handling body fluids or equipment containing body fluids, if you are touching someone else's broken skin or mucus membrane or performing any other invasive procedure. Wash your hands between each resident and use fresh gloves for each resident where necessary.

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- **Personal items** - don't share towels, clothing, razors, toothbrushes, shavers or other personal items.

Food Preparation

When preparing food:

- Wash your hands before and after handling food.
- Avoid touching your hair, nose or mouth.
- Keep hot and cold food at the required temperature for serving.
- Use separate storage, utensils and preparation surfaces for cooked and uncooked foods as required.
- Wash all utensils and preparation surfaces thoroughly with hot water and the required cleaning solution after use.

Cleanliness in the Workplace

Infection control procedures relating to cleanliness in the workplace are generally completed by Buildings and General Services (BGS) custodial staff. In the event Woodside staff must clean any area of the facility, they will follow the guidelines below:

- Regularly wash the floors, bathrooms and surfaces - such as tables and bench tops - with hot water and cleaning solution provided by BGS.
- Wash - walls and ceilings periodically.
- Mops, brushes and cloths should be thoroughly washed and dried after every use or prepared for return to the vendor provided by BGS. Drying mops and cloths is particularly important, since many pathogens rely on moisture to thrive.
- Use BGS supplied cleaning solutions to clean up blood and other spills of bodily fluids.
- When using disinfectants - always wear gloves, clean the surfaces before using the disinfectant, and always follow the manufacturer's instructions exactly.
- Spot clean when necessary.

Spills of Body Fluids

Examples of body fluids include blood, saliva, urine and feces. When dealing with spills of body fluids, infection control procedures should be followed carefully. Always:

- Isolate the area.
- Wear gloves, a smock and eye protection, such as goggles.



- Soak up the fluid with disposable paper towels, scoop up paper towels, and place in a plastic bag and dispose of appropriately.
- Mix one-part bleach to 10 parts water and apply to the area for 10 minutes.
- Wash with hot water and detergent.
- Dry the area.
- Dispose of paper towels and gloves appropriately.
- Wash your hands.
- Dispose of contaminated clothing.

Infectious Waste

To dispose of infectious waste that has been contaminated with blood or other body fluids:

- Wear disposable gloves.
- Place waste in plastic bags marked "infectious waste".
- Dispose of waste in accordance with regulations.

Needles and other Sharp Contaminated Objects

Infection control procedures when handling needles and other sharp contaminated objects include:

- Never attempt to re-cap or bend used needles.
- Handle by the barrel.
- Place in an appropriate puncture-proof container.

Occupational Exposure

If you come into contact with blood or body fluids:

- Flush the area with running water.
- Wash the area with plenty of warm water and soap.
- Report the incident to the on-duty Operations Supervisor.
- Report the exposure via the Workman's Comp vendor website.