VERMONT DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Division Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center		405c
Chapter:	Treatment, Health Care and Nutrition Services	
Subject:	Preventing Illness/Disease Transmission	Page 1 of 7
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Supersedes	Woodside Policy and Procedure 405c	Dated: 10/10/2014

Purpose

To establish procedures to prevent the transmission of illness and infectious diseases at Woodside

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Related Policies

Woodside Policy and Procedure 401 on General Health Practice
Woodside Policy and Procedure 405a on Bloodborne Pathogens

Definitions

Bloodborne Pathogen: pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and can infect and cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) the cause of AIDS.

Infectious Disease: An illness caused by an infecting agent such as a bacterium, virus, protozoa, or fungus.

Communicable Disease: An illness that can be transmitted from one person to another, either directly or on an object.

Respiratory Illness: Includes Influenza, Pneumonia, Whooping Cough, Tuberculosis, Measles, Mumps, Chickenpox, Strep Throat, Meningitis, Diphtheria, Mononucleosis, the Common Cold (with temperature 100 degrees or higher)

Procedure

The following procedure is in place to prevent the transmission of illness and disease at Woodside.

Identification at Intake

Health Screening Instrument - Upon intake, youth are interviewed by the nurse. In the unlikely event that the nurse isn't available intake staff will complete the Health Screening Instrument. The Health Screening Instrument is utilized to assess the resident's current health status. If intake staff complete the form in the absence of a nurse the Nurse Manager will be informed about immediate concerns.

Visual Cues- Staff must observe youth for any unusual symptoms or marks (rashes, bruising, infestations, boils, open wounds, etc.) and report these on the Health Screening Instrument.

Emergencies Identified at Intake

If there is an emergency (*See Emergency Medical Procedures, 405 d*), go directly to the University of Vermont Medical Center's Emergency Department, and then notify Woodside Nurse Manager and administration as soon as possible.

Admission Assessment

The Nurse will complete an admission assessment on each new resident, no later than 3 business days after admission.

Complete Physical Exam within Seven Days

Any resident with a length of stay greater than 7 days will receive a complete Physical exam. Residents with acute medical issues will receive immediate attention.

Residents may request medical attention by submitting a Nurse Request Form. Needs will be triaged by onsite medical staff. The proper precautions will be implemented for all symptoms suspicious for infectious or communicable diseases. (*See section II Work Practice Controls).*

Reporting Concerns to Nurse and Supervisor

All visual signs of illness or infection (including cough, sneezes, fever, rash, malaise, vomiting, diarrhea, bruising, infestation, boils, open wounds) will be reported to the nurse.

Any suspicious findings on resident property (blood in underwear, mucous on clothing or anywhere in room, lice on linens, etc.), will be reported to the Nurse.

All concerns must be reported to the Supervisor immediately. The Family Services Worker for the youth is informed of suspected or confirmed communicable or infectious diseases.

Basic Personal Hygiene Standards

1. Handwashing: The most basic step in fighting the spread of illness/disease. Youth will wash hands before meals and after using bathroom.

2. Unit Cleanliness: Units will be cleaned daily. This will include cleaning of individual rooms, cleaning bathrooms, and vacuuming unit.
3. Personal Hygiene Equipment: Masks, examination gloves, and gowns will be utilized when indicated. Wear mask when entering room of youth with respiratory infection; wear gloves when emptying trash, dealing with laundry/dirty linen.
4. Education: Residents must be advised of proper hygiene to be followed to prevent the spread of illness/disease. Emphasis will be placed on handwashing; keep hands out of pants and hair; "Playground" or "Recreational" etiquette i.e. keeping one's sweat to himself; and what to do if they cut themselves or are bleeding i.e. call for help and keep bleeding area away from others, making sure not to touch things in the environment with bloody parts; and respiratory etiquette i.e. cover moth when coughing or cough into one's sleeve, and again wash hands.
5. Isolation; While in Communicable Stage of illness/disease, youth may be placed in Medical Isolation. While medication therapy may continue, once the Medical team determines a youth is no longer contagious, medical isolation status will be lifted.
6. Resident Hair Care: It is recommended that residents wash their hair at least 3 times a week, unless there is a medical condition that prohibits washing.

Work Practice Controls

Suspicion that a youth has some form of communicable disease requires the following Work Practice Controls be employed. The Supervisor and the Nurse will be notified immediately for direction on managing the illness. If unable to reach the Nurse, one of the facility Physicians will be contacted.

Respiratory Illness

1. Isolation- Physical separation of an infected individual from the rest of the population for a period of time established by the Medical Department. Location will be designated on a case by case basis with an emphasis on containing/preventing transmission.
2. Contact Isolation-Procedures (frequent hand washing, examination gloves when in contact with contaminated items, masks, precautions with linens/clothing, etc.) must be taken to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses. Infectious residents may also be required to wear a mask (to be determined by Medical Staff.)
3. 3. Medication Therapy-Implemented at the direction of the Medical Department.

Bloodborne Pathogens (see Procedure 405a)

1. Universal Precautions- all human blood and body fluids are treated as if known to be infectious for bloodborne pathogens.
2. Personal Protective Equipment- examination gloves, gowns, masks, and/or protective eyewear will be used when indicated. (If only coming in contact with a small amount of bodily fluids, gloves would be used. If dealing with a large amount of bodily fluids with a risk of exposing one's own mucous membranes, then a gown, mask, and/or eyewear is needed.)
3. Waste Requirements
    a. Contaminated sharps container-A sharps container is available and maintained in the Nurse's office. Any "Sharp" or instrument that pierces the skin, will be placed carefully in a sharps container. The Nurse will collect sharps containers to be picked up by Stericycle company 866-783-7422
    b. Disposable Razor Container- All razors will be placed in a designated container and is maintained on the units. The Nurse will collect sharps containers to be picked up by Stericycle company 866-783-7422)
    c. Soiled/Infectious linen/clothing (semen, blood, or other body fluids shall be rinsed out. Anything coming in contact with those soiled linens shall be disinfected with bleach and water. The cleaning area will also be disinfected. Staff shall wash and dry soiled/infectious linen separately.
    d. Contaminated waste (gloves, gowns, or anything requiring disposal will be placed in a biohazard bag and given to Nurse for proper disposal (To be picked up by Stericycle company 866-783-7422).
    e. Medication Therapy-Implemented at the direction of the Medical Department.

Skin Problems

1. Athlete's Foot (tinea pedis), Jock Itch (tinea cruris), and Ringworm (tinea corporus) are the most common fungal skin infections.
    a. Resident will be referred to medical staff for evaluation and treatment.
    b. Residents with fungal skin infections will shower last. The shower will then be cleaned with bleach and water.
2. Impetigo is a bacterial infection that often starts when a small scratch becomes infected.
    a. Resident will be referred to medical staff for evaluation and treatment.
    b. Residents with fungal skin infections will shower last. The shower will then be cleaned with bleach and water.

Lice

Lice are tiny (about the size of a sesame seed), white or black, wingless insects that may live on the skin, hair, or clothing.

a. Resident suspected of having lice will be offered lice shampoo and instructions for use.
b. Resident will be referred to Nurse for evaluation and follow up care.

Carpets, upholstered furniture, mattresses and pillows will be vacuumed. Vacuum bags will be discarded following use. Individual rooms and bathrooms must be thoroughly cleaned. Bedding and clothing will be immediately washed separately in hot water and detergent.

Scabies

Scabies are tiny mites that burrow under the skin and lay eggs. This burrowing causes an allergic reaction with a rash that itches intensely. Youth will be referred to medical staff for evaluation and treatment.

Carpets and upholstered furniture will be vacuumed. Personal rooms and bathrooms will be thoroughly cleaned. Bedding and clothing will be washed in hot water, separately.

Conjunctivitis

Conjunctivitis, often called "Pink Eye", is usually caused by a virus.

a. Youth will be referred to medical staff for evaluation and treatment.
b. Contact isolation will be observed.

Cold Sores (Type 1 Herpes Simplex Virus)

Cold Sores are painful lesions on the lips or in the mouth.

a. Youth will be referred to medical staff for evaluation and treatment.
b. Contact Isolation will be observed.

MRSA Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

MRSA Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) is a bacterium that causes infections in different parts of the body. The bacterium is resistant to some commonly used antibiotics. MRSA causes mild infections on the skin, like sores or boils. But it can also cause more serious skin infections or infect surgical wounds, the bloodstream, the lungs, or the urinary tract

a. Youth will be referred to medical staff for evaluation and treatment.
b. Standard precautions will be assumed.
c. Contact isolation will be observed.

Frequently touched surfaces and surfaces that come in direct contact with skin will be disinfected with an EPA registered disinfectant. Bandages which contain wound drainage will be disposed of in a red biohazard bag to be picked up by Stericycle company 866-783-7422. Laundry will be bagged while wearing gloves and handled as little as possible. It will be washed in hot water.