

**Lower Providence Township Police Department
Eagleville, Pennsylvania**

General Order ☒
Special Order ☐
Personnel Order ☐

ORDER NUMBER

904

Subject

Communicable Disease

Date of Issue

February 4, 2020

Effective Date

February 4, 2020

Expiration Date

**Until Amended or
Rescinded**

Issued by:

Michael Jackson, Chief of Police

Amends

Rescinds

All Previous Orders

Standard Number

2.5.3 / 2.5.7

Distribution

- 1. General Order Manuals**
- 2. Records Manual**
- 3. Reading Verification to all Personnel**

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for law enforcement officers in preventing the contraction of communicable diseases.

II. POLICY

It is the responsibility of the Department to ensure that its members are able to perform their duties in a safe and effective manner.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. Body Fluids: Liquid secretions including blood, semen and vaginal or other secretions that might contain these fluids such as saliva, vomit, urine or feces.
- B. Communicable Disease: Those infectious illnesses that are transmitted through contact with the body fluids of an infected individual.

IV. REGULATION

A. Communicable Disease Prevention

1. In order to minimize potential exposure to communicable diseases, officers should assume that all persons are potential carriers of a communicable disease.
2. Disposable gloves shall be worn when handling any person, clothing or equipment with body fluids on them.

3. Masks, protective eye wear and coveralls shall be worn where body fluids may be splashed on the officer.
 4. Plastic mouthpieces or other authorized barrier/resuscitation devices shall be used whenever an officer performs CPR or mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
 5. All sharp instruments such as knives, scalpels and needles shall be handled with extraordinary care, and should be considered contaminated items.
- B. Transport and Custody
1. Where appropriate protective equipment is available, no officer shall refuse to arrest or otherwise physically handle any person who may have a communicable disease.
 2. Officers shall not put their fingers in or near any person's mouth.
 3. Officers have an obligation to notify relevant support personnel during a transfer of custody when the suspect has body fluids present on his person or has stated that he has a communicable disease.
 4. Suspects taken into custody with body fluids on their person shall be directly placed in designated holding area for processing.
 5. Officers shall document on the appropriate arrest or incident form when a suspect is taken into custody who states he has a communicable disease.
- C. Disinfection
1. Any unprotected skin surfaces exposed to body fluids shall be immediately and thoroughly washed with hot running water and soap for 15 seconds before rinsing and drying.
 - a. Alcohol or antiseptic towelettes may be used where soap and water are unavailable.
 - b. Disposable gloves should be rinsed before removal.
 - c. All open cuts and abrasions shall be covered with waterproof bandages before reporting to duty.
- D. Supplies
1. Supervisors are responsible for continuously maintaining and storing an adequate amount of communicable disease control supplies for their squad.
 2. Supervisors are responsible for dissemination of supplies for infectious disease control.
 3. All patrol vehicles shall be continuously stocked with disposable gloves, sealable plastic bags, barrier resuscitation equipment, goggles and masks. Also, liquid germicidal cleanser and disposable alcohol towelettes shall be available.
- E. Line of Duty Exposure to Communicable Diseases
1. Any officer who has been bitten by a person or who has had physical contact with body fluids of another person while in the line of duty shall be considered to have been exposed to a communicable disease.
 2. A supervisor shall be contacted to fill out all appropriate medical forms.
 3. Immediately after exposure, the officer shall be transported to the appropriate health care facility for serological testing for evidence of infection.
 - a. Psychological counseling shall be provided as needed.
 - b. Unless disclosure to an appropriate official is authorized by the officer or state law, the officer's test results shall remain confidential.
 4. Officers who test positive for a communicable disease may continue working as long as they do not pose a health threat to themselves, the public, or members of the department.
 5. All personnel shall treat employees who have contracted a communicable disease fairly, courteously and with dignity.

Michael Jackson

Michael Jackson
Chief of Police