

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

REACH for Tomorrow

POLICY: RHR-513

TITLE: **Universal Precautions - Infection Control**

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/8/24

AUTHORIZED BY: Board of Trustees

This policy shall apply to REACH for Tomorrow and all services operated by or under contract with it.

1. Universal Precautions

- 1.1. Universal precautions are infection control techniques. Universal precautions mean that every patient is treated as if they are infected and therefore precautions are taken to minimize risk. Universal precautions are good hygiene habits, such as hand washing and the use of gloves and other barriers, correct sharps handling, and aseptic techniques. Universal precautions refers to the practice, in medicine, of avoiding contact with patients' bodily fluids, by means of the wearing of nonporous articles such as medical gloves, goggles, and face shields. Medical instruments, especially scalpels and hypodermic needles should be handled carefully and disposed of properly in a Sharps container. All agency staff and residential contractors shall utilize universal precautions as a primary method of preventing the transmission of communicable/infectious diseases. All human blood and body fluids shall be treated as if known to be infectious for HIV, HBV, and other blood borne pathogens.
- 1.2. All staff and residential contractors shall receive annual training on universal precautions as a primary method of preventing the transmission of communicable/infectious diseases.
- 1.3. All employees and residential staff shall perform hand hygiene in compliance with guidelines set by Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the United States.
- 1.4. All staff shall take all necessary precautions outlined in REACH for Tomorrow procedures to prevent exposure of themselves and others to blood, body fluids, and other potentially infectious materials.

1.4.1. In the event of exposure, staff shall follow agency procedures in compliance with the guidelines established by the CDC and OSHA.

2. Immunization

- 3.1.1. Immunizations against communicable diseases are encouraged for all staff. The Hepatitis B vaccine series shall be offered, free of charge, to all staff considered to be at occupational risk for exposure to blood or bodily fluids.

3. Housekeeping

- 4.1.1. All worksites shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition. Facilities and maintenance staff shall adhere to REACH for Tomorrow established schedule and requirements for sanitation of each facility.

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4. Reporting for Work

- 5.1.1. REACH for Tomorrow employees are encouraged to utilize paid time off in the event of personal illness. The intent of this policy is to prevent the spread of illness to other staff as well as persons served and contractors.

References

The implementation of this policy shall conform to standards set forth by the Public Health Code, Ohio Department of Health and Human Services (OHMAS), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA).

U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety & Health Administration, U.S. Centers for Disease Control, Committee on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.