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| **YCFCA%20emblem** | **FLINT HILL FIRE DEPARTMENT**  GENERAL POLICY |

**Policy Number:** 210.03

**Policy Title:** Infection Control

**Adopted:** 02/12/2024

**Rescinds:** New

**Approved By: (Chief)**

1. **PURPOSE:**

To reduce the risk of occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens, and/or other potentially infectious materials, in compliance with federal and state regulations.

1. **DISCUSSION:**

The Flint Hill Fire Department (FHFD) recognizes that communicable disease exposure is an occupational health hazard. Communicable disease transmission is possible during any aspect of emergency response, including in station operations. The health and welfare of each member is a joint concern of the members and FHFD. While each member is responsible for their own health, the department recognizes a responsibility to provide as safe a workplace as possible. The goal of this program is to provide all members with the best available protection from occupationally acquired communicable disease.

1. **POLICY:**

1. It is the responsibility of FHFD:
   1. To provide fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to the public without regard to known or suspected diagnosis of communicable disease in any patient.
   2. To regard all patient contacts as potentially infectious. Universal precautions will always be observed and will be expanded to include all body fluids and other potentially infectious material (body substance isolation).
   3. To provide all members with the necessary training, immunizations, and personal protective equipment (PPE) needed for protection from communicable disease.
   4. To recognize the need for work restrictions based on infection control concerns.
   5. To encourage participation in member assistance and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) programs.
   6. To prohibit discrimination of any member for health reasons, including infection and/or seroconversion with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or hepatitis B virus (HBV).
   7. To regard all medical information as strictly confidential. No members’ health information will be released without the signed written consent of the member.
2. The FHFD is committed to providing a safe and healthful work environment for all staff. The FHFD has adopted this program to prevent illness and injury produced by the exposure to bloodborne pathogens such as Hepatitis B (HBV) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). This policy will comply with OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard, 29 CFR 1910.130.
3. The Infection Control Plan (ICP) is a key document to assist in implementing and ensuring compliance with the standard, thereby protecting our employees. The ICP includes:
   1. Exposure Control – Determination of employee exposure
   2. Methods of Compliance including:
      1. Universal precautions
      2. Engineering and work practice controls
      3. Personal protective equipment
      4. Housekeeping
   3. Hepatitis B vaccinations
      1. Post-exposure evaluation and follow up
   4. Communication of hazards to employees training
   5. Recordkeeping
   6. Procedures for evaluating circumstances surrounding an exposure incident.
4. Procedures are detailed in the attachment (210.03 INFECTION CONTROL PLAN).