

# Infectious Disease Precautions and Exposure Management for EMS Personnel

## I. PURPOSE

This policy provides guidelines aimed to reduce the risk of exposure/transmission of infectious and communicable diseases to prehospital personnel and patients.

## II. EXPOSURE RISK REDUCTION

### A. Prehospital Personnel Shall:

1. Follow employer's policies/procedures for infection control to protect both patients and themselves.

### B. Provider Agencies Shall:

1. Comply with all federal, state, and local regulations regarding infectious disease precautions.
2. Establish and maintain a written exposure control plan designed to eliminate or minimize employee exposure. This plan shall include a procedure to be used if an employee is possibly exposed to a communicable disease and this plan shall be made easily accessible.
3. Designate an infection control officer (Designated Officer or DO) to evaluate and respond to possible infectious disease exposure of provider agency's prehospital personnel. Providers shall ensure current DO contact information is on file with the LEMSA.
4. Make available equipment, supplies and training necessary for prehospital personnel to reasonably protect themselves and their patients against infectious disease exposure.
5. Develop and implement policies regarding the prompt reporting and follow-up of exposures to infectious diseases.

