



Universal Precautions and Sanitary Practices Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines to follow regarding universal precautions and sanitary practices for infection prevention and control.

I. Policy

It is the policy of Ability Building Community to follow universal precautions and sanitary practices including hand washing for infection prevention and control. This includes preventing the spread of communicable diseases.

II. Procedures

A. Universal precautions, sanitary practices, and prevention

Universal precautions apply to the following infectious materials: blood; bodily fluids visibly contaminated by blood; semen; and vaginal secretions. All staff are required to follow universal precautions and sanitary practices, including:

1. Use of proper hand washing procedure.
2. Use of latex-free gloves in contact with infectious materials.
3. Use of a gown or apron when clothing may become soiled with infectious materials.
4. Use of eye protection or a face shield if splashing is possible.
5. Use of latex-free gloves and disinfecting solution when cleaning a contaminated surface. Surfaces should be cleaned first and then disinfected following all appropriate contact times for the chemical used.
6. Proper disposal of sharps.
7. Use of latex-free gloves and proper bagging procedures when handling and washing contaminated laundry.

B. Control of communicable diseases ([Reportable Infectious Diseases: Reportable Diseases A-Z - Minnesota Dept. of Health](http://www.health.state.mn.us))

1. Staff will report any signs of possible infections or symptoms of communicable diseases which they themselves and/or individuals receiving services are experiencing to the appropriate Program Manager; Program Director; Director of HR, Safety, & Facilities; or Safety Coordinator.
2. When an individual receiving services has been exposed to a diagnosed communicable disease, staff will promptly report to other licensed providers and residential settings.
3. Staff diagnosed with a communicable disease may return to work upon direction of a health care professional.

Policy reviewed and authorized by: Wayne Stenberg, Executive Director

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NOTE: The website from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is included as a resource for additional information.