

<b>Policy Title:</b>	Communicable Diseases		
<b>Category:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Institutional - Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Academic - Administrative	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Institutional - Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Employment - Administrative	
<b>Approved by:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> President	
<b>Date approved:</b>	August 31, 2017	<b>Effective date:</b>	August 31, 2017
<b>Policy Sponsor:</b>	Vice President, Administration & Finance	<b>Date last reviewed:</b>	January 2019
<b>Date of Mandatory Review (expiry date)</b>	August 2024	<b>Date of last revision of Procedures</b>	August 31, 2017

## 1 POLICY

1. CMCC requires students, faculty and staff to practice Universal Precautions in all settings where there is potential exposure to blood-borne pathogens. Air-borne Transmission-based Precautions are recommended to provide additional protection beyond Standard Precautions to interrupt transmission of pathogens for individuals with known or suspected epidemiologically important pathogens (e.g., flu, TB) in health care settings.
2. CMCC follows the advice of Toronto Public Health in dealing with communicable or infectious diseases. Personal protective equipment is available for use in such instances at CMCC.
3. CMCC recognizes the rights of patients, students and employees to receive or provide services without discrimination based on illness or perceived illness, in accordance with applicable law, while safeguarding the health of all involved.
4. CMCC will not discriminate against patients, students or employees based on the individual having a communicable disease. Patients, students and employees shall not be denied access to the institution solely on the grounds that they have a communicable disease. CMCC reserves the right to exclude a person with a communicable disease from the institution's facilities, programs and functions if it finds that, based on a medical determination, such restriction is necessary for the welfare of the person who has the communicable disease and/or the welfare of others within the institution.
5. CMCC will communicate to the local Public Health Office of Health Canada all reportable communicable infections and diseases as per the following provisions:
  - a. While the health status information of any patient, student, staff or faculty member is held in the strictest confidence, the institution is also committed to protect the health and safety of other community members in our working and teaching environment.
  - b. CMCC, in conjunction with the local Public Health Office, will give students, staff and faculty appropriate information, as needed, on reportable communicable infections or diseases.

- c. CMCC will meet all legal requirements of the local Public Health Office for quarantine or isolation of any student, staff or faculty member infected with a contagious disease.

## 2 PURPOSE

To promote a safe and productive work, educational, and clinical environment by minimizing the danger of communicable diseases and blood-borne pathogens through education, precaution, or elimination.

## 3 SCOPE

Students, employees and patients.

## 4 INFORMATION AND COMPLIANCE PLANS (not a comprehensive list)

The information in this policy is based on the current Public Health Agency of Canada recommendations for Prevention of HIV (Human Immune Deficiency Virus) causing AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) as well as other Blood-borne and Air-borne Pathogens in Health-Care settings.

[References: [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/PDF/P7/19661e.pdf](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/PDF/P7/19661e.pdf) and <http://pubs.cpha.ca>]

The current list of Communicable Diseases that are reportable to Public Health is available at: <http://dsol-smed.hc-sc.gc.ca/dsol-smed/ndis/list-eng.php>.

## 5 RELATED POLICIES

N/A

## 6 DEFINITIONS

Transmission-based Precautions refer to procedures designed to prevent transmission in a health care setting of epidemiologically important pathogens. The following are Transmission-based Precautions: washing and drying of hands before and after contact with patients, barrier gowns, gloves, eyewear (goggles or glasses with side shields), face shields.

Universal Precautions refers to the practice, in health care, of avoiding contact with patients' bodily fluids by means of the wearing of nonporous articles such as medical gloves, goggles, and face shields. It is always assumed that blood and body fluids are infectious for blood-borne diseases such as HIV, HBV, and HVC.

<p><b>New Policy Approved (date):</b> Communicable Diseases Including AIDS – October 1999</p>
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<p><b>Policy Revision History (dates):</b> Communicable Diseases - May 6, 2010 August 31, 2017</p>
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-----END OF POLICY-----

## 7 PROCEDURES

1. **Body Fluids to which Universal Precautions Apply:**

Universal Precautions apply to blood (and to other body fluids containing visible blood), semen and vaginal secretions (sexual transmission). Universal Precautions also apply to tissues and to the following fluids: cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, peritoneal fluid, pericardial fluid, and amniotic fluid, although risk of transmission of HIV and HBV from these fluids is unknown.

2. **Body Fluids to which Universal Precautions Do Not Apply:**

Universal Precautions do not apply to feces, nasal secretions, sputum, sweat, tears, urine and vomitus unless they contain visible blood. The risk of transmission of blood-borne pathogens from these fluids and materials is extremely low or non-existent.

The precautions to be taken are:

- washing of hands
- covering of cuts or sores on hands
- cleaning equipment according to recommended procedures
- using disposable gloves, gowns, face and eye protection, and other protective clothing and equipment
- cleaning anything contaminated with blood or other body fluids, using rubbing alcohol, or a 1:9 solution of bleach and water mixed daily, or an approved bactericidal or virucidal solution.

Mess kits and communicable disease kits will be placed at designated sites at CMCC and Clinics for use in such spills.

3. **Transmission-Based Precautions (Airborne, Droplet, and Contact Precautions) to which Universal Precautions Do NOT apply:**

Transmission-based Precautions can be used for patients known or suspected to be infected or colonized with epidemiologically important pathogens that can be transmitted by airborne transmission or by contact with dry skin or contaminated surfaces. These Precautions should be used in addition to Universal Precautions:

- Airborne Precautions used for infections spread in small particles in the air such as chicken pox, or infections spread with large droplets by coughing, talking, or sneezing such as influenza.
- Contact Precautions used for infections spread by skin to skin contact or contact with other surfaces such as herpes simplex virus.

Airborne Precautions, Droplet Precautions, and Contact Precautions may be combined for diseases that have multiple routes of transmission. When used either singularly or in combination, they are to be used in addition to Standard Precautions.

**New Procedure Approved (date):**

October 1999

**Procedure Revision History (dates):**

May 6, 2010

## 8 ATTACHMENTS

None