

**MEHLVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
GUIDELINES FOR PREHOSPITAL EMERGENCY CARE**

SUBJECT: 300.01

**INFECTION CONTROL:
INFECTION CONTROL STATEMENT**

**ORIGINAL ISSUE 5/08
LATEST REVISION 10/14**

- Personnel of the Mehlville Fire Protection District must always take precautions with patients suspected of having a communicable disease. Patients that could potentially expose EMS personnel to body fluids, secretions or respiratory droplets warrant the use of at least rubber gloves, masks, and eye protection.
- Respiratory protection for patients with the potential of an airborne communicable disease should be an N95 particulate filtering mask. A mask should also be placed on the patient.
- A water impermeable gown is recommended for significant exposures.
- In rare circumstances, increased levels of PPE may be used such as chemical suits and self-contained breathing apparatus.
- Care should be used when removing personal protective equipment to ensure it is properly decontaminated and removed in a manner that does not contaminate the first responder.
- Care should be taken to limit the number of EMS personnel exposed to patients with possible communicable diseases to the lowest number of people needed to treat the patient. Procedures that would expose first responders to increased risk of exposure to communicable diseases such as needle sticks and intubation should only be done if absolutely necessary.
- Disinfectant procedures for the ambulance and equipment as per the guidelines of the Fire District should be strictly followed.
- Communication to the Emergency Department is imperative as early as possible to ensure proper treatment of this patient.
- Patients transported to the hospital that are diagnosed as having a communicable disease of significant implications will be reported to the Fire District by the appropriate in-house infection control authority. The unit or agency that transported the patient will then be contacted by the Fire District and informed as to the appropriate testing and/or prophylactic procedures that are indicated.
- Any Fire District personnel, who are exposed to a patient with a dangerous communicable disease, are cut or stuck with contaminated needles or who come into contact with bodily fluids will notify the Assistant Chief immediately. An incident report will be filed and the appropriate testing and/or prophylaxis procedures implemented.
- Mehlville Fire Protection District personnel should follow the District's infection control plan.
- Exposure Hotline: (314) 729-9995 (Mercy Hospital – St. Louis)