



POLICY AND PROCEDURE	
SUBJECT/TITLE:	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the Clinical Setting
APPLICABILITY:	Public Health Nurses; WIC Laboratory Personnel
CONTACT PERSON & DIVISION:	Amanda Morningstar, MSN, APRN, FNP-C; Nursing Division
ORIGINAL DATE ADOPTED:	
LATEST EFFECTIVE DATE:	05/15/2019
REVIEW FREQUENCY:	Every five (5) years
BOARD APPROVAL DATE:	N/A
REFERENCE NUMBER:	200-18-P

A. PURPOSE

The intent of this document is to provide clear guidance regarding the use of personal protective equipment in the clinical setting.

B. POLICY

Canton City Public Health (CCPH) provides clinical services to both adult and pediatric patients. These clinical services create the potential for an occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens via blood or other potentially infectious materials. Employees are most at risk for potential exposure during the Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) clinic; the Counseling and Testing Site (CTS) clinic (which provides testing for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus [HIV]); during collection of blood specimens in the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) clinic; and during client testing for HIV and Hepatitis C in the Stark-wide Approach to Prevention (SWAP) program. To help decrease the risk of potential exposure to infectious materials, appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) must be used.

This policy applies to all CCPH nursing/clinical staff employees and any professional visitors in the clinical setting (i.e., medical residents and nursing students).

C. BACKGROUND

N/A

D. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Bloodborne Pathogens – pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – specialized clothing or equipment worn by an employee for protection against a hazard. General work clothes (e.g., uniforms, pants, shirts or blouses) not intended to function as protection against a hazard are not considered to be personal protective equipment. Some examples of PPE include gloves, gowns, masks, lab coats, etc.

Other Potentially Infectious Materials – The following human body fluids: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva in dental procedures, any body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood, and all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids.

E. PROCEDURES

1. Employer Responsibilities:



- a. Canton City Public Health must provide (at no cost to the employee) appropriate personal protective equipment such as, but not limited to, gloves, gowns, laboratory coats, or other PPE deemed necessary.
 - b. CCPH must assess the workplace to determine whether certain tasks, workplace situations, or employee skill levels may result in an employee’s need for laboratory coats or other PPE to prevent contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials.
 - c. CCPH must provide, clean, repair, replace, and/or dispose of PPE when needed. The practice of employees laundering their own PPE at home is prohibited. [OSHA 1910.1030(d)(3)(iv)]
2. Recommended/Required Personal Protective Equipment:
- a. Tuberculosis (TB) testing in clinical setting - no recommended PPE
 - b. Travel Clinic - no recommended PPE
 - c. Immunization Clinic – no recommended PPE
 - d. STD Clinic – lab coat and gloves; goggles as needed [OSHA 29CFR 1910.1030(d)(3)(x)]
 - e. HIV and Hepatitis C testing – lab coat and gloves
 - f. WIC laboratory services – lab coat and gloves
 - g. Offsite immunization outreach programs – lab coats are to be worn not as PPE, but for identification purposes only
 - h. Staff has the right to choose to wear lab coats at their own discretion

F. CITATIONS & REFERENCES

Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA). *OSHA Quick Reference Guide to the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard*. Retrieved from https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodbornepathogens/bloodborne_quickref.html

Occupational Safety & Health Administration. *OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) Standard, 29 CFR 1910.1030*. Retrieved from <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1030>

G. CONTRIBUTORS

The following staff contributed to the authorship of this document:

- 1. Amanda Morningstar, MSN, APRN, FNP-C; Nurse Practitioner/Nursing Supervisor
- 2. Diane Thompson, RN, MSN; Director of Nursing
- 3. Jon Elias, MD; Medical Director

H. APPENDICIES & ATTACHMENTS

N/A

I. REFERENCE FORMS

N/A

J. REVISION & REVIEW HISTORY

Revision Date	Review Date	Author	Notes

K. APPROVAL

This document has been approved in accordance with the “800-001-P Standards for Writing and Approving PPSOGFs” procedure as of the effective date listed above