

BLOODBORNE DISEASES

To reduce the risk of a bloodborne infection, the officer should practice what is known as "Universal Precautions" where he or she treats blood and all body fluids containing visible blood of any patient/inmate as being potentially infectious. Universal Precautions include the following guidelines:

- !. The wearing of gloves is standard procedure whenever there is possible exposure to blood or body fluids containing visible blood. No one type of glove is appropriate for all situations.
 - ". Latex, disposable gloves - For use when touching blood, body fluids containing visible blood, mucous membranes, and nonintact skin. In an emergency situation, if you cannot determine if blood is present, use these gloves.
 - ". Rubber household gloves - For use when cleaning and decontaminating spills of blood or body fluids containing visible blood.
 - ". Thick, leather gloves - For use to help prevent bites or scratches from patients/inmates.
(NOTE: No HIV, HBV, or syphilis has been transmitted through a bite or scratch.)
- !. Masks, eyewear and plastic gowns should be worn when there is a possibility of splatter of blood or body fluids containing visible blood into mucous membranes (eyes, nose or mouth) or onto clothing