2.29 Infection Control in the Department of Social Work

Purpose

To provide the employees of the Department of Social Work with guidelines for control of infection in their department and while in contact with patients.

Audience

All UTMB employees, contract workers, volunteers, and students in the Department of Social Work

Personnel

- All Department of Social Work staff members shall attend an inservice on infection control annually.
- All Department of Social Work staff members shall follow infection control procedures as established by the University. Among these are frequent and routine washing of hands and adherence to posted infection control or isolation notices. Workers who observe an infection control notice on a patient's door shall first consult nursing staff on the level and type of precaution to be followed before seeing the patient.
- Universal precautions appropriate to the situation are to be observed whenever exposure to blood and/or body fluids is a possibility (see policy: Universal Precautions). Workers unsure about universal precautions shall consult area nursing staff.
- When an employee becomes contaminated by blood and body fluids, she/he shall wash thoroughly as soon as possible.
- When an employee's clothing is soiled or contaminated in the line of duty, the employee shall change into clean clothes.
- Personnel shall comply with Employee Health Center guidelines for their area.
- Eating and drinking shall be confined to designated areas.
- Suspected or known exposure to or acquisition of an infectious or communicable disease shall be reported to the Employee Health Center or Healthcare Epidemiology immediately.
- All cuts and lacerations shall be covered with a waterproof dressing.

Any employee with signs or symptoms of an infectious disease shall be cleared by employee health or a private physician prior to reporting to work.