
LAURENS COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

SOP# A-175

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SUBJECT: AIDS

INDEX AS: AIDS: ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME

EFFECTIVE DATE: 04/20/2005

REVISED DATE:

I. PURPOSE:

To establish procedures to be followed when an employee comes in contact with a person suspected of having AIDS.

II. DEFINITION:

A. AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. AIDS is a serious condition caused by a virus called HTLV-III and characterized by a specific defect in the natural immunity system against disease.

III. GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. There have been no reported cases in which the disease has been transmitted by casual or even close daily contact with AIDS patients or persons in high risk groups. For instance, family members other than sex partners of the infected persons have not developed AIDS. There have been no reported cases of ambulance drivers, police and fireman who as a result of assisting AIDS patients have contacted the disease.

B. AIDS is spread through intimate sexual contact, blood products and sharing of contaminated needles.

C. There is no evidence that AIDS is spread through any of the following:

1. Sneezing, coughing or spitting;
2. Handshakes or other non-sexual physical contact;
3. Toilet seats, bathtubs or showers;

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4. Various utensils, dishes or linens used by a person with AIDS;
5. Being around someone with AIDS on a daily basis or over a long period of time;
6. articles handled or worn by persons with AIDS;
7. Riding in the same transportation;
8. Eating in the same public places or with an AIDS patient;
9. Working in the same office, shop, etc;

IV. PROCEDURES:

- A. Rubber gloves are issued to Departmental personnel when there is a chance of contamination from a person suspected of having AIDS or the officer is likely to be exposed to body fluids from a suspected AIDS carrier.
- B. The following procedures are recommended for employees exposed to or having contact with AIDS patients in the performance of their duties;
 1. Wash hands thoroughly after contact with the subject or patient. (Careful hand washing is probably your most important and effective method of preventing the spread of various communicable diseases).
 2. If you assist a person in a manner which may cause blood or other body fluids to be on you hands it would be desirable to wear gloves. This does not supersede the value of good hand washing.
 3. Clean up blood spills and other fluids with regular household bleach (Clorox)diluted one (1) part bleach to nine (9) parts water. (Wear gloves during this procedure.



W. A. HARRELL
SHERIFF

04/20/2005

DATE