

GENERAL ORDER



Title		
Infectious Disease Prevention		
Topic	Series	Number
OPS	803	01
Effective Date		
February 26, 2025		
Related to: GO-PER-100.11 (Medical Services)		
Rescinds: Listed in Part IV. Rescission		

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

I.	Purpose	Page	1
II.	Procedures	Page	1
II.A	General	Page	1
II.B	Personal Protective Equipment	Page	2
II.C	Calls for Service and Self-Initiated Police Action	Page	4
II.D	Transport and Custody	Page	4
II.E	Exposure Decontamination	Page	5
II.F	Infectious Disease Removal and Detention Orders	Page	6
II.G	High Volume Arrests	Page	7
III.	Definitions	Page	8
IV.	Rescission	Page	8

I. PURPOSE

It is the responsibility of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) to ensure that its members are able to perform their duties in a safe and effective manner. The safe performance of daily operations can be threatened by infectious diseases or infestations. It is the policy of MPD to provide members with information, equipment, and training that will help minimize potential exposure while increasing members' understanding of the nature, risks, and routes of disease transmission. The purpose of this general order is to establish procedures for detecting and preventing infectious diseases and infestations. This order also includes requirements for the use of department-issued personal protective equipment (PPE) in certain circumstances.

II. PROCEDURES

A. General

1. The existence of infectious diseases or infestation may not be noticeable. In order to minimize potential exposure to infectious diseases, members should assume that all persons could be potential carriers, even if no symptoms are visibly present.
2. Good hygiene, prompt and sanitary cleaning practices, and the proper medical care for and attention to cuts, sores, and skin conditions on a member's body (particularly the hands) are the most important preventative measure for reducing the possibility of contracting an

infectious disease through contact with bodily fluids. Members should be particularly careful in evaluating their need for PPE pursuant to this order.

3. If contact with a contagion or infestation has been made, members should promptly cleanse affected body areas and shall be evaluated by a medical professional pursuant to this order, as soon as the member can be temporarily relieved of the assignment. Officials shall provide temporary relief as soon as practicable and ensure that the exposure is handled in accordance with this order.
4. The Medical Services Division (MSD) director, in consultation with the chief physician of the Police and Firefighter’s Clinic (PFC), shall serve as the department’s infectious disease coordinator and advise the chief of police on matters related to infectious disease and infestation.
5. Members of the Domestic Security Operations (DSO) Unit are trained to respond and facilitate decontamination procedures, as necessary, at the direction of the infectious disease coordinator or Special Operations Division (SOD) commanding official.
6. Members experiencing symptoms consistent with infectious viruses and diseases shall stay home, notify their supervisor, be placed on sick leave, and may be directed by MSD (sworn) or Human Resources Management Division (HRMD) (civilian) to take a test, when applicable. HRMD may require members, when necessary, to provide medical clearance from a doctor or otherwise demonstrate recovery prior to returning to work.

B. PPE

1. The Equipment and Supply Branch (ESB) shall stock the following PPE supplies required for handling persons, clothing, or equipment suspected of carrying an infectious disease that can be transmitted through contact, including through bodily fluids.

Department-Issued PPE Supplies
a. Tyrek suit/gown
b. Rubber boot covers
c. Soft boot covers
d. Disposable gloves
e. Rubber gloves
f. N95 respirator face mask
g. Gas mask with filter
h. Goggles
i. Disposal bag
j. Alcohol-based sanitizer

2. Commanding officials shall maintain adequate PPE supplies at their element. PPE supplies shall be readily available at all times. Commanding officials shall ensure additional PPE is requested through ESB as replacement supplies are needed.

3. Commanding officials shall ensure each member is issued PPE supplies. Members shall maintain PPE supplies and ensure PPE is functional and accessible during assignments.
4. When it becomes necessary to replace PPE supplies, members shall notify their direct supervisor who shall coordinate replacement with the watch commander. Commanding officials shall ensure that an adequate stock of replacement supplies is maintained and accessible to the watch commander at all times.
5. Members shall employ appropriate PPE supplies when the circumstances deem it necessary for a member’s personal protection.
6. Members shall don and remove full PPE, as appropriate, according to the procedures specified below.

Steps for Donning Full PPE
a. Remove duty belt.
b. Sanitize: Wash hands with soap and water or apply an alcohol-based hand sanitizer prior to handling PPE and if hands become contaminated at any time.
c. Tyvek suit/gown: Put on Tyvek suit, or for the gown, fully cover torso from neck to knees, arms to end of wrists, and wrap around the back. Fasten gown in back of neck and waist.
d. Shoe covers: Place over shoes or boots.
e. N95 respirator or face mask: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Secure ties or elastic bands at middle of head or neck. (2) Fit flexible band at nose bridge. (3) Fit snug to face and below chin. (4) Fit-check respirator (ensure there are no open areas around the edges of mask).
f. Goggles: Place over eyes and adjust straps to fit.
g. Gloves: Extend to cover wrists over gown/suit.
h. Put on the duty belt outside of the gown/suit.

Steps for Removing Full PPE
a. Open clear plastic bag.
b. Remove duty belt and goggles and place inside plastic bag.
c. Open biohazard infectious waste bag (or another plastic bag, if not available).
d. Remove shoe covers and place into the waste bag.
e. Remove Tyvek suit or gown and gloves <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) For the gown, grasp the front and pull away from the body so that the ties break, touching outside of gown only with gloved hands. (2) While removing the gown or suit, fold or roll the gown or suit inside-out into a bundle (peel off the gloves at the same time, only touching the inside of the gloves and gown/suit with bare hands). (3) Place the gown/suit and gloves into the waste bag.
f. Remove N95 respirator or face mask by grasping the bottom ties or elastic ties of the mask, then the ones at the top, and remove mask without touching the front. Place the mask in waste bag. N95 masks may be reused unless the mask is soiled or was worn while in contact with a person known or suspected to have an infectious disease).
g. Secure all used PPE in waste bag and tie bag shut for disposal.
h. Immediately wash hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer after removing PPE and if hands become contaminated at any time.

- C. Calls for Service and Self-Initiated Police Action
1. When members respond to a call for service where the dispatcher advises or members determine that a subject at the location is exhibiting signs or symptoms of infectious disease or infestation, and members do not need to make immediate contact with the subject, members should wait for District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DCFEMS) to respond prior to entering the location. If members must make contact before the arrival of DCFEMS, members should don the appropriate PPE prior to making contact with the subject.
 2. When infectious disease or infestation is known or suspected, members should limit the number of responders to the fewest needed to provide quality police service and ensure the safety of themselves and others. Members should also be observant of individuals who may exhibit symptoms of an infectious disease or infestation so they may retreat and don the appropriate PPE.
 3. All sharp instruments such as knives, scalpels, and needles should be considered potentially infectious and handled with extraordinary care.
- D. Transport and Custody
1. Members shall ask individuals in MPD custody if they are suffering from or have been exposed to an infectious disease or infestation. Questioning individuals about medical conditions is a sensitive issue and shall be done in a professional manner and in a situation or location which provides the individual the appropriate level of privacy.
 2. Members detecting or notified of an infectious disease or infestation of a subject in police custody shall limit contact with the subject to only essential members and notify a supervisor of the situation. The notified supervisor shall ensure that the infectious disease coordinator is notified.
 3. Transportation shall be handled pursuant to [GO-PCA-502.01 \(Transportation and Searches of Prisoners\)](#). Members shall summon a transport vehicle to take the prisoner to the nearest hospital for evaluation and prepare a PD Form 313 (Arrestee's Injury/Illness Report). In all instances when there is evidence of infectious disease or infestation, the prisoner **shall not** be taken to any holding facility until cleared by a competent medical authority.
 4. Subjects that are potentially infected or have bodily fluids on their persons shall be transported in separate vehicles from other individuals for appropriate medical evaluation or treatment by paramedics or other qualified medical personnel.
 5. Members shall ensure that prisoners who have been medically cleared from a hospital are segregated from the general prisoner population and are transported to the Central Cell Block (CCB), along with a copy of the

PD Form 313. The PD Form 313 shall remain with the prisoner and be forwarded to the United States Marshall's Service once the prisoner is transported to court.

6. The watch commander, in coordination with DSO, shall determine whether a holding facility shall be closed due to any form of contamination. Once the determination is made to close a holding facility, the watch commander shall:

Cell Block Closure	
a.	Notify the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC).
b.	Notify the field commander and the district commanding official of the decision to close the affected cell block.
c.	Have all affected prisoner(s) transported to area hospitals for medical treatment and clearance if needed.
d.	Make arrangements to transport non-contaminated prisoners to CCB.
e.	Identify all vehicles and holding areas that need to be decontaminated and prohibit any contact with these vehicles and/or areas.
f.	Ensure that the infectious disease coordinator is notified to arrange for decontamination.
g.	Identify all members that came in contact with the prisoner(s) and direct them to complete decontamination procedures pursuant to this order.

E. Exposure Decontamination

1. When a member comes in contact with a subject confirmed or suspected of having an infectious disease or infestation and the member had not donned PPE at that time, the member shall immediately notify a supervisor, who shall ensure that the member is referred for appropriate treatment. The supervisor shall report the exposure to the infectious disease coordinator. DSO shall facilitate the decontamination process in accordance with the type and severity of exposure.
2. Any unprotected skin surfaces that come into contact with bodily fluids or an infected individual shall be immediately and thoroughly washed with soap and warm water.
 - a. Careful hand washing is the most effective method of preventing the spread of infection. Alcohol-based hand cleaning solutions or antiseptic towelettes can be used when soap and water are unavailable.
 - b. Members should use water to flush the eyes thoroughly or to rinse the mouth amply if blood or other bodily fluids have splashed into the eyes or mouth.
3. Members coming in contact with an infectious disease or infestation shall prepare a PD Form 318 (Communicable Disease Contact Form) and report to the Police and Fire Clinic (PFC). During times when the clinic is closed the affected member(s) shall respond to the appropriate medical care facility according to [GO-PER-100.11 \(Medical Services\)](#).

4. Members should remove clothing that has been contaminated with bodily fluids as soon as practicable. Any skin area that has come into contact with this clothing should be cleansed. Contaminated clothing should be handled carefully and laundered separately. Grossly contaminated clothing should be treated as biohazard waste.
5. Members of DSO Unit are trained to facilitate the following decontamination procedures. Decontamination procedures are dependent upon the type and severity of exposure.
 - a. The member may be required to avoid all contact with other members in cases of dangerous infections or infestations. Members shall be guided by DSO direction.
 - b. When applicable, DSO will set up a mobile tent attached with a heated water source for decontamination.

Decontamination Procedures
(1) The member will enter the tent and remove MPD issued gear, and uniform. All equipment and uniforms items that can be easily sanitized (e.g., duty weapon, magazines, ASP, ECD, flashlight, handcuffs) will be sanitized by DSO and placed in a zip lock bag.
(2) All equipment and uniform items that are unable to be sanitized on scene (e.g., vest, uniform shirt and pants, nylon duty belt, boots) will be placed in a bag for the member. The member will take the bag home and launder all items using the warmest appropriate water setting separate from other clothing. All items unable to be washed in a laundry machine shall be wiped down with antiseptic wipes and left to air dry.
(3) The member will be given a washcloth and soap and will be advised to wash their entire body. They will be given a towel to dry off and will be given a white coverall suit or an extra set of the member's clothing. No other member will be present in the decontamination shower area. This area will be out of public view.
(4) The member shall not enter any police facility at any time. A DSO member or another member will enter and retrieve any personal property the member requests.
(5) The member will be given back all items that were sanitized by the DSO including the member's duty belt.

- c. The member's vehicle will be secured and be placed out of service. The member's watch commander shall notify the RTCC to request notification to DGS to respond to the district and sanitize the vehicle, when applicable.

F. Infectious Disease Removal and Detention Orders

1. The DSO Unit shall serve infectious disease removal orders pursuant to [DC Official Code § 7-133](#), detention orders pursuant to [DC Official Code § 7-134](#), and any other warrant obtained by the DC Department of Health issued to address infectious disease. Individuals taken into custody will not be processed through CCB but shall be transported to only the location or institution named in the order.

2. When executing the order, the member shall inform the subject of its contents and provide the subject with a copy of the order.
3. Members shall transport subjects pursuant to [GO-PCA-502.01](#) and provide a copy of the detention order to the person in charge of any place or institution where the subject has been taken or detained, or, if the place of detention is a residence, to an adult present in the subject's residence.
4. Members shall record service of the order in the records management system (RMS), the PD Form 150 (Watch Commander's Report) and to the RTCC.

G. High Volume Arrests

1. The department may implement health and safety protocols related to high-volume arrests to avoid the spread of infectious viruses and diseases, to be used in conjunction with [GO-HSC-801.01 \(Crowd Management and Civil Unrest\)](#).
2. To the extent possible, at the scene, during transport, and in processing areas, without risking the safety of officers, arrestees, and members of the public, arrestees should be kept distant from each other. Windows and doors should be partially opened to enhance ventilation, when safe and appropriate given the outside ambient temperature, and when the number of arrestees exceeds the capacity of the prisoner processing facility, the MPA gymnasium shall be used as the overflow area to allow distancing of arrestees.
3. There may be health screenings implemented, at which point, transport cars, wagons, or buses shall stop at the designated arrestee unloading area for the prisoner processing facility and overflow area. Health screening shall be conducted in the designated arrestee unloading area outside the transport vehicle.
4. When health screenings are in place, transport vehicles shall space themselves to allow off-loaded arrestees to maintain distancing whenever possible. While waiting to off-load arrestees, transport officers shall open wagon doors and bus or car windows to enhance ventilation, as appropriate given the outside ambient temperature.
 - a. Transport vehicles shall wait until every arrestee from that vehicle has completed the health screening and been informed of results by a safety officer and upon being informed by a safety officer that all of its arrestees clear the screening, the transport vehicle may exit the unloading area.
 - b. Safety officers shall request DCFEMS transport of any arrestee exhibiting signs and symptoms of infectious disease.
 - c. Transport vehicles in need of de-contamination shall proceed to

the designated area to be sanitized prior to transporting other arrestees, whenever possible.

III. DEFINITIONS

When used in this directive, the following terms shall have the meanings designated.

	Term	Definition
1.	Decontamination	Process of cleansing the human body, items and/or areas to remove contamination by hazardous or infectious materials.
2.	Infectious disease	Disease which is easily transmitted by physical contact with a person suffering from the disease, or by their secretions or objects touched by them (e.g., tuberculosis, meningitis).
3.	Infestation	State of being invaded or overrun by parasites or other pests. Also refers to parasites living in or on a host (e.g., lice).

IV. RESCISSION

<p>Rescinds: EO-20-051 (Coronavirus 2019: High Volume Arrest Transport and Processing Procedures), Effective Date November 2, 2020 EO-23-002 (Coronavirus 2019: Illness and Exposure Protocols), Effective Date February 28, 2023 GO-OPS-502.03 (Service of Communicable Disease Removal and Detention Orders), Effective Date May 6, 2009 SO-87-37 (Protective Equipment), Effective Date October 10, 1987 SO-11-13 (Contagious Disease and Infestation Protocol), Effective Date July 12, 2011</p>
--



Pamela A. Smith
 Chief of Police