Policy:

Mid-Missouri Supported Living, LLC, and all its employees shall implement the following Contagious Disease Policy. All those employed with this company shall be trained on how to practice the Universal Precautions as recommended by OSHA, Centers for Disease Control, the Department of Mental Health, or Health Care Providers to minimize the risk of exposure to infectious diseases. The protection of both individuals supported and staff has and always will be of the utmost importance. We feel the following procedures, when followed, aide in keeping everyone healthier, allowing for a more comfortable living and working environment.

Comments:

Universal Precautions implies that under circumstances in which it may be too difficult to differentiate between bodily fluid types, then ALL bodily fluids should be considered potentially infectious, including secretions/excretions, mucous membranes and no-intact skin as infectious, regardless of the person's diagnosis and is based upon the premise that many infections can be active and transmissible, yet manifest no symptoms. Control measures are to be carried out in an inconspicuous manner maintaining the least "clinical" appearance possible for the individual supported even in a situation where isolation is indicated for safety.

Mid-Missouri Supported Living will provide supplies for handling bodily fluids in each of its service locations. These supplies will include bleach, a container in which to create water/bleach solution, absorbent material (such as cat litter), a container or bag in which to dispose of any spill material, plastic gloves and appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Gloves need to be worn in *ALL* of the following situations:

- When contact with the blood/bodily fluids is anticipated
- When contact with vomit and/or feces is anticipated
- To touch mucous membranes and non-intact skin
- To handle items or surfaces soiled with blood or bodily fluids
- Whenever cleaning up spills of blood or bodily fluids
- Whenever changing linen that has blood or bodily fluids on it
- Whenever a cut, sore, or lesion is apparent either on the individual or the staff
- Whenever handling of needles or sharp objects is anticipated

Immediately following one of the above situations, the next step is to wash your hands.

Good hand washing with soap and water is the single most important step each employee and individual can use to prevent any type of disease from spreading. The following list shall serve as a guide so staff and individuals alike can be reminded of the proper times for washing their hands.

- Upon arrival at your work area
- Before and after going to the bathroom
- Before and after meals
- Before and after direct contact with others
- After contact with anything that might be contaminated
- After touching secretions/excretions
- Before performing invasive/self-care procedures
- Before putting on gloves

- After removing gloves

The following procedures should be followed at all times by both the support staff and the individuals for washing your hands:

- Turn on the water faucet
- Wet hands under the running water
- Apply the soap or antiseptic
- Work the soap into a lather
- Clean the nails by scrubbing them against the soapy palms
- Thoroughly rinse the hands
- Use a paper towel to blot the hands dry
- Use the same paper towel to turn off the water faucet
- Use the same paper towel to open the bathroom door and then throw the towel away.

If you have been exposed to known infected blood, blood borne pathogens, or other potentially infectious material while at work, the following actions are recommended:

- Wash hands or other affected areas with soap and water.
- Flush eyes, nose, and mouth with water as soon as possible
- Report the exposure to your supervisor or agency RN.
- Follow instructions provided by agency RN and your supervisor.

Use of Personal Protective Equipment

When caring for individuals supported where contact with blood or other bodily fluids is a possibility, the use of gloves, masks and/or eye protection, commonly known as Personal Protective Equipment should be used.

- Use sterile gloves
- Gloves will be single use and must be discarded after each use
- Remove gloves promptly after use
- Wash hands immediately after removing gloves
- For persons who are allergic, hypoallergenic gloves, powder-free gloves, synthetic, and vinyl gloves are available.
- Masks and eye protection shall be worn to protect the mucous membrane of the eyes, nose, and/or mouth during procedures that are likely to generate splashed, sprays, splatter, or droplets of blood, bodily fluids, secretion, and excretions.
- Should clothing become contaminated by bodily fluid, the garments should be removed as soon as feasible and placed in a container for cleaning, decontamination, or disposal.

In the event that any person comes into contact with bodily fluids, they should contact their supervisor immediately along with the agency RN. An injury report will need to be completed and the person affected may need to be seen by their primary care physician, urgent care, emergency room or at the health department. All reporting should be done according to the local and state health department guidelines according to the type of infection control event.

All staff are expected to report any concerns regarding bodily substance precautions to the agency RN along with their immediate supervisor. This may include questions, concerns or reporting when other employees are not following this procedure. The goal is to keep everyone safe. House Managers and Program Managers are expected to routinely monitor the use of infection control measures by staff when training and ongoing monitoring when in the home and supervising.

When requested, staff will provide to individuals supported information on anonymous test sites for further education on communicable diseases, including HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C. All communicable diseases will be reported to the Department of Health and Senior Services as recommended by the CDC and diagnosing physician.

Approved by: _____

Robert Palmer, RN, BSN, Owner MMSL