## Communicable Disease Control

Issued By: Executive Director

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The goal of Belkin House is to protect as best as possible all staff and residents from contracting any communicable disease while working or living here. The most effective way to ensure that the risk of spread of disease within the work and residential environment is minimized (and ideally, eliminated) is to ensure that sound health and safety polices and practices are established, understood, and practiced.

#### Screening

All new Residents entering Belkin House will be requested on intake to disclose any significant health related concerns such as influenza, or infectious disease such as TB, Hepatitis, HIV, etc. Where necessary, intake Staff will take reasonable steps to assess the seriousness of each situation, including the need to consult with their Supervisor for direction, and/or consult with the prospective Residents Physician or other Health Authority regarding proper care of the Resident and precautionary steps to ensure the safety of Staff and Residents.

#### Notification of Exposure

Staff who contract or who believe they have contracted or been exposed to influenza or other serious or infectious virus or disease such as TB, Hepatitis, HIV, etc. will advise their Supervisor as soon as reasonably possible, for their own benefit, and so that proper steps can be taken to protect the health other Staff and Residents.

#### Influenza, TB, Hepatitis and Tetanus

Wherever possible – and depending upon the demand for health services resources within the community, an annual flu vaccination clinic for Residents and Staff will be held at Belkin House. Otherwise, all Staff (and Residents) are encouraged to consider consulting their Physician and/or to participate in a local, annual community vaccination clinic (see policy 8.1.28 Vaccination & Inoculation, the Belkin House Pandemic Plan for more information and guidance).

TB – please refer to policy 8.1.4 Tuberculosis and 8.1.28 Vaccination & Inoculation.

#### Viral Gastroenteritis (“Stomach Flu”)

One of the common viruses that cause gastroenteritis or stomach flu is the Norovirus. Within one to two days of being exposed to the Norovirus, a person may have an upset stomach and start vomiting, often followed by cramping, chills, fever and diarrhea. These are complicated when a person loses too much fluid and it is not replaced.

Norovirus is spread when we don’t wash our hands well enough after using the toilet or cleaning up from someone who is sick. It can also be airborne as well. Prevention or reducing is assisted by washing hands and by cleaning infected area with medium bleach solution. Person’s affected should stay off work and/or rest for 3 days or until they feel better.

#### Precautionary Measures

Ongoing health and safety training, workshops, Departmental Staff training, information webinars and general awareness information for all Residents and Staff will be put in place. This is the best means of maintaining a proper state of preparedness. When the risk is significant that an outbreak of a contagious virus or disease may be imminent, or in the event of an actual outbreak, as a minimum, the following will occur:

* + The Pandemic Plan will come into effect and the OH&S Committee notified
  + Staff and Residents will be briefed, including receiving applicable health information resources and regular informational updates in the form of bulletins, posted notices and routine memos
  + Additional health & safety resources will be put in place such as additional hand sanitizer units, hand sanitizing wipes, gloves and or masks as may be required
  + Housekeeping and Food Services Departments will institute additional cleaning and sanitization measures of high risk or high use areas.
  + If necessary, program adjustments or postponements will be put into effect
  + Public areas and common spaces will be restricted or closed entirely for the duration of the outbreak

#### Handling of Body Fluids / Blood

Normally an event of body fluid or blood spill, Housekeeping Staff will be immediately contacted to address the contaminated area. In an event where the spill may be small in size, or where Housekeeping Staff may be delayed or unavailable, all Staff, should know the following safety information and ensure the safe practices outlined below are followed:

1. Ensure that the area where the body fluid spill has occurred is blocked off.
2. Thoroughly wash hands
3. Put on disposable rubber gloves specific for cleaning (do not use latex gloves)
4. Pick up any needles or sharps using tongs and place them in a sharps container
5. Wipe up the spill using disposable paper towels, then place paper towels in a garbage bag.
6. Pour bleach disinfecting solution onto all contaminated areas
7. Let the bleach solution sit for 20 minutes.
8. Wipe up or mop up any remaining bleach solution with a mop or paper towels.
9. Soak mops or non-disposable materials in the bleach solution and let them air-dry.
10. Remove gloves and place in the garbage bag.
11. Double bag and secure the garbage bag before throwing it out.
12. Wash hands for at least 15 seconds using soap and water

#### Quarantine

In accordance with the Belkin House pandemic plan pg 20, ill individuals who are not subject to hospitalization. may be isolated in their rooms. Ideally, an ill individual should be isolated as soon as possible to reduce the transmission of the virus. The Manager, or their designate, of the Department within which the ill resident resides will ensure that:

* + Individuals in isolation have easy access to washrooms. When accommodating a group of ill individuals, and a communal washroom is required, Housekeeping will be advised and ensure that the washrooms are cleaned frequently.
  + Individuals have access to food, drinks, and medications.

Attending Staff are required to wear appropriate protective equipment when bringing supplies and providing support to ill individuals (e.g., surgical mask and eye protection if providing direct face-to-face care within 1 metre of the ill person).

Room checks of ill individuals will be made at least every 3 hours to ensure the resident’s health is stable and not deteriorating. If it is deemed to be deteriorating, medical services will be consulted immediately and if necessary, an ambulance called to take the individual to the hospital.

#### Training

Please refer to policy 2.1.7 Employee Training & Development and policy 8.1.1. Health & Safety

– General (Training).