

Communicable Diseases Policy v2

Introduction

This policy is intended to minimise risks to staff from health issues associated with control of infectious communicable diseases and is particularly important in environments where risk exists and where the probability of exposure is more likely.

Additionally, it is set out to reduce risks to our clients and learners.

Definitions

Diseases that are:

- Transmitted from one individual to another (also known as contagious diseases).
- Caused by micro-organisms, such as protozoa, fungi, viruses, and bacteria, that invade the body and cause a series of changes that lead to infection and damage to the body.
- Infectious diseases that can be transmitted by direct or indirect contact or through the air.
- Experience shows that the risk of infection is low for the majority of occupations, as direct contact with blood and body fluids does not occur regularly. Much depends on the nature of the exposure. Not all exposures result in infection.

Vaccines are:

- A preparation using a non-infectious element or relative of a particular virus or bacteria and administered with the intention of halting the progress of an infection, or completely preventing it.

Responsibility

- Any Driver will provide information training and instruction on communicable disease issues arising from work activities and will monitor and evaluate as required. It is a member of staff's responsibility to report communicable disease concerns as they arise following the procedure contained within this policy.
- Senior management have ultimate responsibility to ensure arrangements have been put in place to protect employees from foreseeable risks, line management/supervisors are responsible for implementing the arrangements put in place.
- First aiders and appointed persons receive training from certificated awarding bodies and as such are informed during the training process of the risk of being exposed to communicable disease while carrying out their duties; however, the risk is small.
- The following precautions can be taken to reduce the risk of infection:
 - Adhere to the latest guidance concerning COVID-19 (including the latest advice for first aiders) – whilst this has reduced the risk in the UK, we are now learning to live with it and awareness is still key.
 - Cover any cuts or grazes on the skin with a waterproof dressing.
 - Wear suitable disposable gloves when dealing with blood or any other body fluids.
 - Use suitable eye protection and a disposable plastic apron where splashing is possible.
 - Wash hands after each procedure.

Vaccination

At the time of writing this policy there was no requirement for staff to be vaccinated against any communicable disease for the purposes of the work they undertake at Any Driver. Vaccination should only be regarded as a supplement to reinforce other control measures. Vaccines if they are needed will be available free of charge to employees.

- We will always follow government guidance and ensure communication on the requirements are clear.
- It is anticipated that other infectious diseases will increase as the country emerges from the lockdown and longer-term restrictions (getting back to a more normal way of living and working).
- Government advice remains to take all vaccines that you are eligible for, this could include COVID-19 boosters, influenza vaccine and Shingles.
- The company will support you time off for vaccinations, this must be agreed in advance with your manager, and not disrupt teaching and learning for your learners.
- We encourage colleagues to take up vaccines when offered / invited and to consult a medical professional if they have any concerns relating to do so.

Incidents of Contact of Communicable Disease

- This section applies to all colleagues, but most specifically to first aiders.
- Prompt medical advice is important - treatment might be appropriate following infection but to be effective, it may need to be started quickly.
- If you are contaminated with blood or other body fluids, the following action must be carried out without delay:
 - Wash splashes off your skin with soap and running water.
 - If your skin is broken, encourage the wound to bleed, do not suck the wound; rinse thoroughly under running water.
 - Wash out splashes in the eyes using tap water or an eye wash bottle, and the nose or mouth with plenty of tap water – do not swallow the water.
 - Record the source of contamination.
- Take the advice of a trained medical professional or the nearest Emergency Department.
- Following medical treatment, the employees line manager must complete the Accident / Incident form and inform the Managing Director.
- Referral to an occupational health specialist may be necessary but such referral may only be made with the consent of the employee concerned.
- Return to work must be subject to the explicit approval of a medical practitioner; written approval must be available to the HR department.
- A full investigation of the incident is necessary, and any deficiencies identified to facilitate corrective action.
- Lessons learnt from the incident must be communicated.
- GDPR requirements will be adhered to.

Legal references

- Under the requirements of the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous
- Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR), there is a legal duty to report certain incidents and dangerous occurrences to the relevant enforcing authority. Incidents such as a puncture wound from a needle known to contain blood contaminated with a blood borne virus or reportable disease must be reported as a dangerous occurrence.
- This policy will be kept up to date and amended accordingly to reflect business needs, legislative changes and government guidance.

Linked Policies and Documents

- ADP007 Health and Safety Policy and Procedures
- ADP005 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

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Policy Approved by: Neil Evans**Signature:**