

# POLICY MANUAL

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**Subject:** DISASTER PLAN IN THE EVENT OF A BIOLOGICAL DISEASE OUTBREAK

**Effective Date:** April 2009

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**Initiated By:** Russ Taylor  
Safety Director

**Approved By:** Jill Howard  
Director of Nursing

**Review Dates:** 07/10 RT/Committee,  
8/11 RT

**Revision Dates:** 6/14 NC

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## POLICY

Cumberland Heights takes seriously its responsibility to provide a safe environment for patients, families, visitors, and employees. In consideration of recent events, a plan for the management of suspected or actual exposure to biological diseases has been developed. It is the intent of this policy to handle any such suspected or real exposures in a calm and considered manner.

## PROCEDURE

- I. RECOGNITION OF PROBLEM
  1. Admissions, Security and Nursing staff are trained annually regarding signs/symptoms and treatment of Anthrax, Bubonic Plague, Botulism, Pandemic Flu, Small Pox, Tuberculosis and Tularemia.
  2. The Charge Nurse, along with the physician, recognizes signs/symptoms of a biological disease and determines an outbreak is possible. If patient presents with symptoms to Admissions, the patient may be sent to a local emergency room for assessment/treatment.
  3. The patient(s) exposed/potentially exposed is isolated.
  4. Security is notified and briefed.
  5. Information regarding the situation (patient symptoms, possible source of infection, number of people exposed, etc) is communicated to Lentz Health Department and directions are followed.
  
- II. IMMEDIATE RESPONSE
  1. The Medical Director, Director of Security and the Infection Control Coordinator are notified by the Charge Nurse and activate the disaster plan in the event of a biological disease outbreak. The following people are immediately contacted to meet in the FLC Conference Room B, with the Infection Control Coordinator (or his/her designee) chairing the meeting: