Interim Infection Control Guidance on COVID-19 for Blood and Plasma Collection Facilities

This document summarizes CUPHD’s recommendations for Blood/Plasma Collection Facilities. This guidance will be reviewed and updated by CUPHD on May 31st, 2020 and will be extended as needed.

Follow Routine Hand and Respiratory Hygiene Practices

- Remember to wash your hands for 20+ seconds with warm water and soap.
- Change gloves and wash your hands in between clients.
- If you need to cough or sneeze, do so in between your elbow.
- Avoid touching your face, even with gloves.

Implement Environmental Infection Control

- Clean and disinfect surfaces daily.
- Clean and disinfect public facing surfaces in between clients.
- The CDC recommends using, “cleaners and water to pre-clean surfaces prior to applying an EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant to frequently touched surfaces”

Stay Home When Sick

- If feeling sick (fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat), stay home: for at least 7 days from onset, or for 72 hours after your fever has stopped (without the use of fever-reducing drugs), and your cough or sore throat symptoms have improved (whichever is longer).
- If you begin to feel sick at work, notify a supervisor and go home immediately.

Face Coverings

Clients must cover their face with a cloth face covering (i.e homemade fabric mask) if possible. See attached guidance for approved cloth face coverings.

Employees must cover their face with a surgical mask. Masks should be changed when they become damp. If the wearer touches the outside of their mask, they should wash their hands immediately.

Social Distancing Requirements

- There should never be more than 10 people in a room. If staff must be close to one another, ensure they are practicing social distancing. Staff should be standing/sitting 6 feet apart from one another at all times.
- Arrange seating for prospective donors in the waiting area at least 6 feet apart prior to implementing donor questionnaire.
- Adjust the physical configuration of the donor cots during blood collection so that donors are at least 6 feet apart.

Take Steps to Support and Educate Staff and Volunteers

- Designate a time to meet with your staff and volunteers to educate them on COVID-19 and what they may need to do to prepare.
- Talk to them about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and actions blood collection centers are taking to protect them.
- Implement and reinforce sick leave policies that are non-punitive, flexible, and consistent with public health guidance.
- Evaluate staff, volunteers, and prospective donors for COVID-19-like symptoms as they enter the collection site. Ask individuals with COVID-19-like symptoms to leave to reduce the risk of viral transmission.

[CDC, 2020]
Homemade Cloth Face Coverings

When to wear a mask/cloth face covering:

All Illinoisans should wear a mask or face covering when they must leave their home and they cannot maintain 6 feet of physical distance between themselves and others. Examples include:

- For essential work
- For grocery shopping
- For pharmacy pickup, restaurant pickup
- Other travel deemed essential by the stay-at-home order

A mask is not necessary for outdoor activities, provided you can maintain 6 feet distance from others. The CDC is recommending cloth face coverings because medical grade masks should be reserved for healthcare or first responders.

Masks/cloth face coverings should:

- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- be secured with ties or ear loops
- include multiple layers of fabric
- allow for breathing without restriction
- be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

YouTube Video: How to Make Your own Face Covering

CDC Guide to Homemade Cloth Coverings: Options for sewn cloth, Cut T-shirt, or Bandana coverings

YouTube Video: Disposable No-Sew Shop Towel Covering

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April 30, 2020