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

This document summarizes CUPHD’s recommendations for Blood/Plasma Collection Facilities during Phase 3 of Restore Illinois. This guidance will be reviewed and updated by CUPHD if our region moves Phases.

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.