

INFECTIOUS DISEASE PRECAUTIONS



Precautions to prevent transmission of infectious diseases are especially important in the emergency care setting, where the risk of blood exposure is increased and the infection status of patients is usually unknown. Universal blood and body fluid precautions should be used for **all** patients, to prevent skin and mucous membrane exposure.



1. EMS responders shall don emergency medical gloves and eye protection prior to initiating any emergency patient care. Change gloves after contact with each patient. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves
2. EMS responders shall don emergency medical garments prior to any patient care during which splashes of body fluids can occur (e.g. situations involving spurting blood or child birth).
3. Wash hands and other skin surfaces immediately, if contaminated with blood or other bodily fluids.
4. Use mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices to avoid mouth to mouth contact.
5. Sharp instruments, needles, and scalpels should be handled carefully during procedures, cleaning, and disposal. Needles should not be recapped, bent, broken by hand, or removed from disposable syringes. Place used disposable syringes, needles, scalpels, and other sharp items in puncture resistant containers for disposal. Place large-bore reusable needles in puncture resistant container for transport to the reprocessing area.



These precautions will afford protection to pregnant emergency care providers to minimize risk of perinatal transmission of infectious disease.

Emergency care providers who have open lesions or weeping dermatitis should refrain from direct patient care and from handling patient care equipment.

