

Policy

Communities of Care is committed to providing a safe work environment for all of its employees. All employees whose work is likely to expose them to blood-borne pathogens will be trained on the hazards and prevention plan.

Training

All field staff will be trained upon hire and annually on the exposure control plan using the packet found with this document. This Infection Control training will include:

- The Chain of Infection and how to break it with universal precautions
- Work practice, engineering, and environmental controls for exposure control
- Symptoms that should be reported and evaluated
- Tuberculosis

This infection control training will be reviewed annually by the and Director of Nursing to ensure that it is up-to-date with current best practices and hazards identified in the Communities of Care workplaces.

Hepatitis B

All field staff will be offered the Hepatitis B vaccination series at no cost to the employee.

Tuberculosis

Communities of Care will follow the mandate set forth by The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). This requires that all Health Care Workers (HCWs) have baseline Tuberculosis (TB) screening upon hire which includes:

- A two-step tuberculin skin test (TST) or single interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) for *M. tuberculosis*. The results of this test must indicate the dates the test was administered and read, and the exact measurement of millimeters of induration. Each step of the TST requires two visits to the clinic.
- A written assessment of current symptoms of TB, to be repeated annually.
- Health Care Workers employed by a low-risk facility (Communities of Care, for example) are not required to have serial testing.

The Safety Coordinator will review the status of the Communities of Care work sites annually to update the risk classification. Documents relating to this review and TB screening procedures/symptom assessment can be found in the Safety Coordinator's office.