 Department of Health Government of Nunavut		<b>NURSING POLICY, PROCEDURE AND PROTOCOLS</b>	
		<b>Community Health Nursing</b>	
<b>TITLE:</b>		<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>POLICY NUMBER:</b>
Routine Practices		Infection Control	10-002-00
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	<b>REVIEW DUE:</b>	<b>REPLACES NUMBER:</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PAGES:</b>
February 10, 2018	February 2021		2
<b>APPLIES TO:</b>			
Community Health Nurses			

**POLICY:**

**All employees working within the community health centre shall apply routine practices (formerly universal precautions) in the administration of their work.**

**PRINCIPLES:**

- Routine practices reduce the risk of transmission of pathogens through exposure to blood or body fluids among clients and staff.
- The rules of routine practices apply to everyone, regardless of diagnosis or presumed infection status.

**RELATED POLICIES, GUIDELINES AND LEGISLATION:**

*Infection Control Manual*

Guidelines 10-002-01 Routine Practice Guidelines

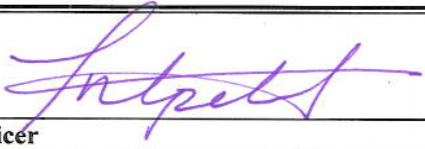

**REFERENCES:**

Government of Nunavut (2006). *Home and Community Care Policy and Procedure Manual*.



## GUIDELINES 10-002-01

1. Wash hands with soap and water before and after procedures. Soap and water should always be used if the hands are visibly soiled. If soap and water are not available, cleanse hands with an alcohol based antiseptic hand cleanser.
2. Use protective gloves when: touching blood or other bodily fluids, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin of all clients and when handling items or surfaces soiled with blood or bodily fluids. Gloves are never a substitute for good hand hygiene.
3. Discard gloves after contact with client.
4. Masks and protective eyewear should be worn during procedures that are likely to generate droplets of blood or other bodily fluids
5. Gowns or aprons should be worn during procedures that are likely to generate splashes of blood or other body fluids.
6. Hands and other skin surfaces should be washed immediately and thoroughly if contaminated with blood or other bodily fluids
7. Hands should be washed immediately after gloves are removed as per procedure 1.
8. Discard contaminated sharps immediately and without recapping in puncture and liquid proof containers that are closed, sealed and destroyed before completely full.
9. Soiled linen should be handled as little as possible. Gloves and leak proof bags should be used as necessary
10. Contaminated equipment must be disinfected or sterilized

Approved by:		11 FEB 2011
Chief Nursing Officer		Date
		
Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services		Date
		Effective Date:  April 1, 2011

