

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

KEYSTONE COMMUNITY RESOURCES, INC.

KEYSTONE INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC.



Policy Title:
HIV / AIDS

Chapter:

Effective Date:
7/1/1992

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11/25/2008

Policy Number:

Executive Director

SCOPE:

- Chapter 6400 – Community Homes For Individuals With Mental Retardation

INTRODUCTION:

1. AIDS is a serious condition that destroys a person's natural immunity against infectious diseases and some forms of cancer. A virus causes AIDS. The AIDS virus is the human immune deficiency virus (HIV).
2. You can become infected with HIV in two ways:
 - Having sexual intercourse, vaginal, and or perhaps oral, with an infected person.
 - Sharing drug needles or syringes with an infected person.
3. HIV can be spread through sexual intercourse, from male to female, or male to male.
4. HIV may be in an infected person's blood, semen, or vaginal secretions. It is thought that it can enter the bloodstream through cuts or sores, some so small you don't know they're there, on tissue in the vagina, penis, or rectum, and possibly the mouth.
5. Anal intercourse with an infected person is one of the ways HIV has been most frequently transmitted.
6. Since most infected people have no symptoms of the condition, it's hard to be sure who is or is not infected with HIV. So, the more sexual partners you have, the greater your chances of encountering one who is infected and becoming infected yourself.
7. You cannot get HIV from giving blood at a blood bank or other established blood collection center. The needles used for blood donations are sterile. They are used once, then destroyed.
8. HIV infection doesn't just happen. You can't simply "catch" it like a cold or flu. Unlike cold or flu viruses, HIV is not spread by coughs or sneezes.
9. You won't get HIV through everyday contact with infected people at school. Work, home, or anywhere else.
10. You won't get HIV from clothes, phones, or toilet seats. It can't be passed on by things like spoons, cups, or other objects that someone who is infected with the virus has used. You cannot get it from everyday contact with an infected person.

11. You won't get AIDS from a mosquito bite. The AIDS virus does not live in a mosquito, and it is not transmitted through a mosquito's salivary glands like other diseases such as malaria or yellow fever. You won't get it from bed bugs, lice, flies or other insects either.
12. You won't get HIV from sweat, tears, a kiss or sneeze. Even in the rare event that they contain any virus, they don't contain enough of the virus to infect you.
13. Residents are at risk for HIV infection (just as the general population) to the degree that they engage in "high risk" behaviors as identified by the Center for Disease Control or have contact with know HIV infected persons. Listed below are levels of risk behaviors and possible symptoms by which individuals shall be identified.
 - **LEVEL I: No obvious Risk of HIV Infection**
 - Not sexually active
 - Not hemophiliac and/or have not received blood transfusions or blood products between 1978 and 1985
 - Does not manifest any Level II, III, or IV behaviors or symptoms.
 - **LEVEL II: Low Risk of HIV Infection**
 - Occasionally sexually active or experienced unusual sexual encounter, i.e., rape
 - Alcohol abuse and /or non-IV drug abuse; i.e., marijuana, cocaine, "crack", pcp
 - Co-habitor with Level III or IV individuals wherein contact with blood or semen is possible
 - **LEVEL III: Moderate Risk of HIV Infection**
 - Promiscuous, unprotected (without Condoms) heterosexual behavior
 - Individuals who have history of positive Venereal Disease Research Laboratory test (VDRLs) or for other sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD's)
 - Hemophiliacs or recipients of blood/blood products between 1978 and 1985
 - Symptomatic: unexplained weight loss greater than ten pounds or 10% of body weight in one or two months. Unexplained fever, shaking chills, or drenching night sweats last longer than several weeks.
 - **Level IV: High Risk of HIV Infection**
 - Homosexual or bisexual behavior
 - IV drug abuser
 - Male or female prostitutes (homosexual or heterosexual)
 - Intimate contact with another individual know to by HIV seropositive
 - Symptomatic: Pneumocystic Carinii Pneumonia (PCP). Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS), Thrush/Candidia Albicans, Persistent Lymphadenopathy
14. Any individual who already has been referred for or received HIV testing upon referral by their primary physician or vendor physician shall be identified confidentially to:
 - All residential staff and volunteers who have ongoing and direct contact with the individual
 - Parents and/or relatives of the individual
 - The individual's casemanager and anyone providing direct service.
 - Local health department.

DISCUSSION: