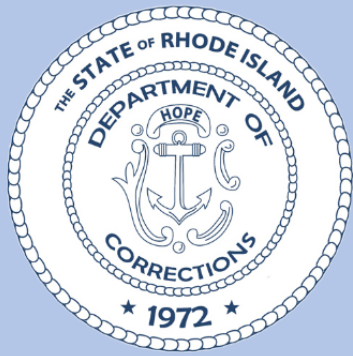




RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURE

DIRECTOR:

Wayne P. Santolucito

**POLICY
NUMBER:
18.12-1 DOC**

**EFFECTIVE
DATE:
11/05/2007**

**SUBJECT:
INFECTION CONTROL PROGRAM**

**LAST REVIEWED:
10/2025**

**SECTION:
HEALTH CARE**

**SUPERSEDES:
18.12 DOC**

AUTHORITY: Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL) § 42-56-10 (22), Powers of the director

REFERENCES: NCCHC standard # J-B-01(essential), policy #'s 18.05 DOC, Continuous Quality Improvement (or successive policy); 18.12A-1 DOC, Blood-borne Pathogen Exposure; 18.12B-1 DOC, Tuberculosis Screening; Federal Register 29 CFR Part 1910, 1030

INMATE/PUBLIC ACCESS: YES

AVAILABLE IN SPANISH: YES

I. PURPOSE:

A. An infection control program will exist to:

1. Promote a safe and healthy environment;
2. Track incidence of infectious and communicable diseases among inmates and staff;
3. Prevent incidence and spread of these diseases;
4. Ensure inmates and staff infected with these diseases receive prompt care and treatment and isolation when necessary;
5. Provide for the completion and filing of all reports consistent with State and Federal laws and regulations in an acceptable and timely manner; and
6. Continue to offer staff education annually as part of the in-service program at the Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) Training Academy.

II. **POLICY:**

An Infection Control Committee will exist at the Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) that will be overseen by the Continuous Quality Improvement Committee.

III. **PROCEDURES:**

A. The Infection Control Committee membership should include:

1. Medical Program Director;
2. Assistant Director Institutions/Operations;
3. Associate Director Health Care Services;
4. Chief of Dental Services;
5. Director of General Nursing Services;
6. Associate Director -- Food Services;
7. All Environmental Health/Hygiene Specialists;
8. A Training Academy Representative;
9. A Health Education Specialist; and
10. Chief/Program Development (Medical Records).

B. The Infection Control Committee responsibilities include:

1. Ensuring written policies are in place and advising the Medical Program Director of noncompliance.
2. Developing and overseeing surveillance and screening procedures (to detect inmates and staff with communicable diseases).
3. Evaluating appropriate immunization strategies to prevent communicable diseases.

4. Overseeing disposal of sharps, bio-hazardous wastes, decontaminating medical equipment, and adhering to universal precautions in compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations relative to blood-borne pathogens.
5. Maintaining RIDOC's Infection Control Manual.
6. The Medical Program Director/ designee is responsible for:
 - a. Ensuring policy compliance;
 - b. Ordering the isolation of inmates when medically indicated; and
 - c. Ensuring compliance with treatments.
- C. The Infection Control Committee shall meet minimally four (4) times per year (quarterly).
- D. Minutes will be kept of meetings; these will be distributed to the Continuing Quality Improvement (CQI) Committee and Infection Control Committee (ICC) members. Informational copies will be sent to RIDOC's Director and Assistant Directors.
- E. A RIDOC Infection Control Manual will be available in each dispensary. Specific infection control procedures not covered in RIDOC policies will be outlined in this manual.