



Charles County Department of Emergency Services STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Section 300 - Employee Health & Safety

Health & Wellness Programs - 300.00		
S.O.P. # 300.07	Parasite Prevention, Procedures & Reporting	PAGE: 1 OF 3
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300.07.01 Purpose

This SOP provides guidance and reporting procedures for personnel who are exposed to parasitic insects while on duty.

300.07.02 Definitions

1. **Bed Linen:** For the purpose of this SOP, bed linen is defined as any piece of garment used by the employee to make their bed. Such items include sheets, blankets, pillows and pillow cases.
2. **Parasite:** Any organism that lives in or on another organism without benefiting the host organism; to include bed bugs, body lice, head lice, pubic lice (crab louse), mites, and scabies.

300.07.03 Applicability

All uniformed personnel.

300.07.04 Prevention

1. Refer to SOP# 100.09, Station Duty Assignments.
2. Equipment used for administering patient care should not be brought into berthing quarters or common living areas.
3. PPE should not be brought or stored in berthing quarters or common living areas.
4. Limit exposure of crew and equipment to areas of infestation.



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300.07.05 Parasite Contact Procedures - Field

In the event an EMS Unit and/or crew transports and/or comes into contact with a possible patient or surroundings with parasitic activity, the following actions should be taken:

1. Personnel should immediately notify the Medical Duty Officer (MDO) of the possible exposure.
2. The MDO will:
 - a. Post call have the crew assigned to the unit(s) remove all clothing to limit the potential of exposure,
 - b. Place the exposed clothing into garbage bags to contain and isolate parasites;
 - c. Have personnel immediately place clothing into a dryer on high heat to terminate the parasites;
 - d. Have personnel shower;
 - e. Have the clothing immediately washed and dried;
 - f. Have personnel place any garments or towels that were used to shower in the dryer on high heat first, then wash and dry them;
 - g. Ensure EMS Unit/Apparatus and equipment is decontaminated using normal decontamination procedures. Units do not need to be placed OOS or fumigated;
 - h. Station officers and all personnel at the assigned station or facility should be notified of the problem and provide available literature on parasites.
3. A *First Report of Injury* must be completed for anyone having direct skin to skin contact with a person having scabies. If someone suspects they have Scabies, they should be evaluated in accordance with SOP# 301.4, Infection Control Plan.
4. Personnel at the affected facility are encouraged to shower and change their clothes at the end of their shift. To the extent possible, soiled clothing and bedding should be washed at the station and not brought home to limit cross-contamination.

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300.07.06 Parasite Contact Procedures - Station

For a discovered case of parasites in the station:

1. Personnel should immediately contact the MDO.
2. The MDO will:
 - a. Notify Operations, station leadership and the County Safety Officer,
 - b. Ensure that contaminated bed linen, uniforms and other related items are placed in a dryer on high heat for twenty (20) minutes.
 - c. Ensure all bed linens are washed in hot water and dried on high heat;
 - d. Ensure all clothing that cannot be washed is immediately bagged;
 - e. Ensure all cloth covered furniture is vacuumed and the vacuum cleaner bag is disposed of. If bagless vacuum is used, empty reservoir and wash in hot soapy water;
 - f. The affected mattress and surrounding area should be sprayed with a high concentration isopropyl alcohol solution of 92%;
 - g. The bunkroom and adjacent areas should be inspected for signs of further parasitic infestation.
3. A *First Report of Injury* must be completed for anyone having direct skin to skin contact with a person having scabies. If someone suspects they have Scabies, they should be evaluated in accordance with SOP# 301.4, Infection Control Plan.
4. Station officers and all personnel at the assigned station or facility should be notified of the problem and provide available literature on parasites.
5. Personnel at affected facility are encouraged to shower and change their clothes at the end of their shift. To the extent possible, soiled clothing and bedding should be washed at the station to limit cross-contamination.
6. As a precaution, Administration will notify general staff via Inter-Office Memorandum.
7. Based on the size of the parasitic infestation, a professional exterminator may need to be called in to mitigate with follow-up of living conditions inspected by the County Safety Officer or his/her designee.

300.07.07 Related References

- <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/scabies/>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/bedbugs/>