

Policy 2.12 - Maintaining a Safe Environment for Immunization Practice

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to provide standards to those administering publicly funded vaccine and or biologics on ensuring a safe environment during immunization.

Preamble: A safe environment for immunization practice is one that does not harm the recipient, does not expose the immunization provider to any avoidable risks and does not result in waste that is dangerous for the community. The administration of vaccine and biologics must be supported by organizational and/or practice policies and procedures that recognize the unique environments where immunization occurs.

Policy: Immunization providers administering publicly funded vaccines and or biologics shall ensure that each office, facility or location where vaccines and or biologics are administered have written procedures or protocols that address or include the standards below.

Standards:

Written procedures are necessary to ensure that there is a routine and systematic approach in maintaining a safe environment for immunization practice.

1. Hand hygiene:
 - a. hand washing;
 - b. use of hand sanitizers; and
 - c. appropriate use of gloves in a non-hospital settings.

2. Needle stick injury:
 - a. universal precautions to prevent exposure of blood borne pathogens by preventing injuries caused by needles and other sharp devices; and
 - b. procedures to follow when a needle stick injury occurs;

3. Disposal of sharps and transportation of dangerous goods:
 - a. clearly identified sharps containers;
 - b. location, storage, handling and disposal of containers; and
 - c. "transportation of dangerous goods" training and certification.

4. Client/patient safety:
 - a. positioning and/or securing the vaccine recipient prior to vaccine administration;
 - b. appropriate equipment (chairs, mats and or stretchers);
 - c. identification of hazards specific to client/patients age groups; and
 - d. mitigation of hazards.