
 Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board	<b>SECTION:</b> Land Ambulance
	<b>POLICY TITLE:</b> Infection Prevention and Control
<b>ORIGINAL DATE:</b> February, 2008	<b>POLICY AREA:</b> Operations
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## Policy

The Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB) ensures that Paramedics use best practices to reduce the transmission of infections and personal risk of infection through proper patient assessment; hand hygiene; personal protective equipment; sharps safety; patient accommodation & transport considerations; and routine cleaning of vehicles and equipment within:

- a) *Ontario Regulation 257/00, General, as amended;*
- b) *Patient Care and Transportation Standards, as amended; and*
- c) *Infection Prevention and Control, Best Practices Manual for Land Ambulance Paramedics, March 2007 version 1.0, EHSB, MOHLTC.*

## Procedure

### Hand Hygiene

1. In order to reduce the transmission of infections and personal risk of infection, Paramedics ensure that proper hand hygiene occurs, at minimum, as follows:
  - a) at the beginning and end of each shift;
  - b) before and after patient contact;
  - c) during and after Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) removal;
  - d) after cleaning/disinfecting equipment and the vehicle;
  - e) before leaving the emergency department;
  - f) before and after handling food;
  - g) before and after smoking;
  - h) after using the bathroom, or other personal body functions (sneezing, coughing); and
  - i) any time hands are visibly soiled.
2. Employees are instructed by their supervisor in orientation that soap and water is an effective method of hand hygiene and must be used, whenever possible.

3. If unable to use soap and water, an alcohol-based hand cleaner may be used by employees, except in the case of visibly-soiled hands. In the case of visibly soiled hands, soap and water must be used.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

1. Paramedics ensure that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is used as dictated by need, policy or directives, as appropriate.
2. The following PPE must be available and utilized, as required:
  - a) masks (sub-micron particulate respirator masks and surgical masks);
  - b) gloves;
  - c) eye protection (protective glasses, goggles, face shields); and
  - d) gowns/disposable coveralls; and/or
  - e) Ebola isolation kits.
3. Paramedics ensure proper donning and doffing of equipment to minimize the risk of contamination.