



## San Benito County Emergency Medical Services Agency

### FIELD PERSONNEL EXPOSURE TO A REPORTABLE DISEASE

Policy : 4010  
Effective : May 1, 2010  
Reviewed : May 1, 2010

**Statement of Intent:** To provide a protocol for reporting incidents when Emergency Responder Personnel (paramedics, emergency medical technicians, firefighters, peace officers, lifeguards, and other public safety personnel) have been exposed to blood or body fluids/secretions (blood borne pathogens) or possible reportable disease or condition in San Benito County.

**Authority:** Health and Safety Code, division 2.5, Section 1797.188.

#### **Definitions:**

“Exposed” means a significant risk of becoming infected with the etiologic agent of a disease.

“Designated Officer” means an official from the Employing Agency designated to evaluate and respond to possible infectious exposures of employees.

“Reportable Disease” means an infectious disease required to be reported to the local health officer pursuant to Section 2500 of the California Code of Regulations, Title 17.

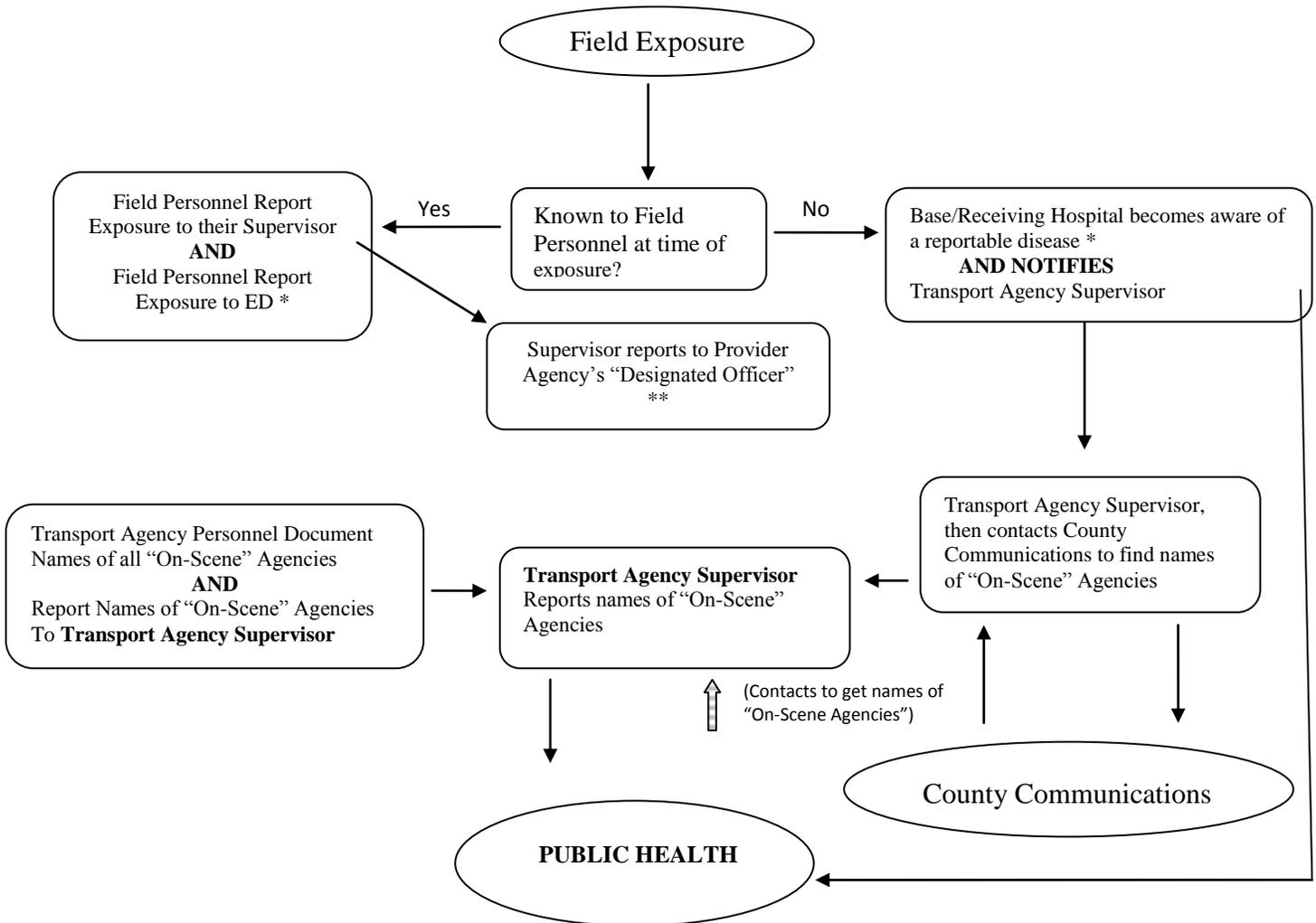
#### **Policy:**

1. All Emergency Responder Personnel who have been exposed or believe they have been exposed to blood or bloody fluids/ secretions by percutaneous, permucosal, or respiratory contact should **immediately** report the exposure:
  - a. To the admitting Emergency Department at the time the source patient is transported for evaluation, and
  - b. To their Employing Agency’s Supervisor.
2. Each affected Employing agency’s Supervisor is responsible for making certain that the names and contact information of all their “on-scene” Emergency Responder Personnel has been reported to the receiving Emergency Department, in a timely manner. In addition, the Transporting Agency involved at the scene, and report that

information to the transporting Agency's (AMR) Supervisor **who will then notify Public Health.**

3. If the Base/receiving Hospital becomes aware of a case where a patient transported by police or ambulance has a reportable disease that the Emergency Responder Personnel were not aware of, the procedure is as follows:
  - a. The **Base/Receiving Hospital is responsible for notifying Public Health in a timely manner that pre-hospital personnel had potential exposure to a reportable disease.** This will be accomplished by the Hospital following its own internal reporting procedures which may designate the Emergency Department, the Hospital Infection Control Practitioner or other medical or administrative personnel to do the reporting.
  - b. **In addition, the Hospital shall contact the Supervisor of the Transporting Agency (AMR, fire agencies or law enforcement) & with County Communication assistance, trace the call & notify the affected agencies.**

**Policy 4010 Algorithm  
Field Personnel Exposure to a Reportable Disease**



\* Hospital reports to Public Health. This will be accomplished by the Hospital following its own internal reporting procedures which may designate the Emergency Department, the Hospital Infection Control Practitioner, or other medical or administrative personnel to do the reporting.

\*\* The “Designated Officer” evaluates and responds to possible infectious disease exposures of employees and coordinates follow-up according to the Provider Agency policy.