**[*insert AFC name*] Chemical and Bioterrorism Threat Policy**

**Effective Date:** [*insert date here*]

**Purpose:** The purpose of this Policy is to safeguard public health, safety and security by preventing, detecting and responding to acts of bioterrorism and chemical threats, which involve the release of biological and/or chemical agents to cause harm.

**Policy/Procedure:**

1. **Prevention:**
	1. Stay informed about current events or threats happening. The CDC website will post information on their website pertaining to outbreaks: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) .
	2. Know the common symptoms of chemical exposure such as dizziness, difficulty breathing, headache, blurred vision, or irritated eyes.
	3. Be aware of the kinds of chemical exposure such as direct, indirect, burns, or spills.
	4. Know the signs of commonly known bioterrorism threats. Examples: Botulism, Anthrax, Plague, Smallpox, Ebola.
	5. More information can be found in the Bioterrorism Readiness Plan: A Template for Healthcare Facilities. [13apr99APIC-CDCBioterrorism.PDF](https://emergency.cdc.gov/bioterrorism/pdf/13apr99APIC-CDCBioterrorism.pdf)
	6. First aid and spill kits should be readily accessible and complete.
2. **Immediate Response for chemical threats:**
	1. If a chemical threat is suspected, local emergency response systems should be activated by the Supervisor or appropriate authority by calling 9-1-1. Notification should immediately include prompt communication with the local and state health departments.
	2. Each facility should include a list containing the following telephone notification numbers:
		1. LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT: [*insert local number here*]
		2. STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT: **Michigan- (517) 335-8024**
	3. If the chemical release is outdoors, close all doors and windows to the facility. Shut down the buildings ventilation system to reduce drawing the exposure to the inside of the facility. Encourage persons-served to remain indoors for safety.
	4. If the chemical release is inside the facility, evacuate the facility and relocate to the safety evacuation plan. Do not use candles, matches, the stove, or lighters. Utilize flashlights if necessary.
	5. If there is a direct chemical exposure, rinse the substance off immediately under cool running water for 15 minutes. Do not use soap. Remove or cut away any soaked clothing. Seek immediate medical attention.
	6. Individuals who may have come into contact with a chemical agent may need to go through a decontamination procedure and receive medical attention. Follow all guidance given by local emergency responders.
	7. The Supervisor or appropriate authority within the facility will notify the guardians of the incident and inform them of any actions taken that impact their wards.
	8. The Supervisor or appropriate authority within the facility will notify the contracted CMH authority verbally of the incident.
3. **Immediate Response for bioterrorism:**
	1. If a bioterrorism event is suspected, local emergency response systems should be activated by the Supervisor or appropriate authority by calling 9-1-1. Notification should immediately include prompt communication with the local and state health departments.
	2. Each facility should include a list containing the following telephone notification numbers:
		1. LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT: [*insert local number here*]
		2. STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT: **Michigan- (517) 335-8024**
	3. Standard precautions should be taken to reduce transmission. This includes handwashing and wearing personal protection equipment such as gloves, masks, gowns and eye protection.
	4. It is recommended that symptomatic persons-served should keep their distance from non-symptomatic persons-served. However, isolation should not impede the quality of care provided from staff member to persons-served.
	5. Follow all instructions given by emergency response team.
	6. Follow cleaning procedures as directed by emergency response team place for the care, cleaning, and disinfection of environmental surfaces, beds, bedrails, bedside equipment and other frequently touched surfaces and equipment.
	7. The Supervisor or appropriate authority within the facility will notify the guardians of the incident and inform them of any actions taken that impact their wards.
	8. The Supervisor or appropriate authority within the facility will notify the contracted CMH authority verbally of the incident.
4. **Closure**
	1. Following the incident, staff members involved may be required to undergo debriefing sessions to determine the cause and preventability of the outbreak.
	2. Ensure all incident reports have been completed and filed as appropriate.
	3. Persons-served involved in the incident may request to undergo debriefing sessions or counseling to address any emotional or psychological impact.
5. **Compliance:**
	1. All staff members at [*insert AFC name here*] are expected to adhere to this policy and comply with its provisions at all times.
6. **Statement:**

I acknowledge that I have read and understood the Chemical and Bioterrorism Threat Policy. By signing below, I agree to adhere to the procedures outlined in this policy and understand the importance of ensuring the safety and well-being of persons-served.

**Print Name: Signature:** **Date:**

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