POLICY

It is the Policy of this Community that Employees shall ensure that the worksite is maintained in a clean and sanitary condition. Each employee shall abide by the policy and utilize the method of decontamination based on type of surface to be cleaned, type of soil present, and tasks or procedures to be performed.

DEFINITIONS

Contaminated Linen is described as – Potentially contaminated material by blood or other bodily fluids.

PROCEDURES

- Contaminated work surfaces shall be decontaminated with an appropriate disinfectant after completion of procedures; immediately or as soon as feasible when surfaces are overtly contaminated or after any spill of blood or other potentially infectious materials; and at the end of the work shift if the surface may have become contaminated since the last cleaning.

- All re-useable bins, pails, cans, and similar receptacles intended for reuse which have a reasonable likelihood for becoming contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials shall be inspected and decontaminated on a regularly scheduled basis and cleaned and decontaminated immediately or as soon as feasible upon visible contamination.

- All receptacles that house potentially contaminated materials shall be closable, puncture resistant, leak proof on sides and bottom, and routinely emptied and not allowed to over fill.

- When moving containers of contaminated materials the lid must be closed to prevent spillage or, placed in a secondary container if leakage is possible.

- Contaminated laundry shall be handled as little as possible with a minimum of agitation.

- Contaminated laundry shall be bagged or containerized at the location where it was used and shall not be sorted or rinsed in the location of use.
When a facility utilizes Universal Precautions in the handling of all contaminated laundry, alternative labeling or color-coding is sufficient if it permits all employees to recognize the containers as requiring compliance with Universal Precautions.

Whenever contaminated laundry is wet and presents a reasonable likelihood of soak-through or leakage from the bag or container, the laundry shall be placed and transported in bags or containers which prevent soak-through and/or leakage of fluids to the exterior.

Contaminated laundry will be stored and rinsed in the “hopper” or a designated Utility Sink located in the soiled laundry section of the community laundry room prior to being washed in washing machines.

The hopper or utility sink must only be used to rinse contaminated laundry and not used for any other purpose.

The employer shall ensure that employees who have contact with contaminated laundry wear protective gloves and other appropriate personal protective equipment.

Employees shall also refer to the Universal Precautions Policy.

**RELATED POLICIES/REFERENCES**

Universal Precautions Policy