



Alabama Department of Mental Health

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

AGENCY NAME: Alabama Department of Mental Health

RULE NO. & TITLE: 580-2-20-.05 Infection Control

INTENDED ACTION: Amend

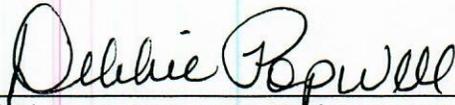
SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION: We have created Chapter 580-2-20 to eventually combine the current rules for Mental Illness in Chapter 580-2-9 and Substance Abuse in Chapter 580-9-44.

TIME, PLACE, MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS: All interested persons may submit data, views, or arguments in writing to Debbie Popwell, Director, Office of Certification Administration, Alabama Department of Mental Health, 100 North Union Street, Suite 540, Montgomery, Alabama 36130 by mail or in person between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM, Monday through Friday, or by electronic means to [Debbie.popwell@mh.alabama.gov](mailto:Debbie.popwell@mh.alabama.gov) until and including March 6, 2020. Persons wishing to submit data, views, or arguments orally should contact Ms. Popwell by telephone at (334) 353-2069 during this period to arrange for an appointment.

FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE:  
March 6, 2020

CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY:  
Persons wishing a copy of the proposal may contact  
Debbie Popwell  
Department of Mental Health  
100 North Union Street, Suite 540  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130  
(334) 353-2069

A copy of the proposed change is available on the department's website at <http://mh.alabama.gov>. Click on Provider Portal and then Certification to find code with changes.



(Signature of officer authorized  
to promulgate and adopt  
rules or his or her deputy)

580-2-20-.05 Reserved Infection Control

(1) The entity shall develop, maintain, and document compliance with a written plan for exposure control relative to infectious diseases that shall, at a minimum, include the following requirements:

(a) The plan shall be inclusive of the entity's staff, recipients, and volunteers.

(b) The plan shall be consistent with protocols and guidelines established for infection control in healthcare settings by the Federal Center for Disease Control, and shall at a minimum include:

1. Policies and procedures to mitigate the potential for transmission and spread of infectious diseases within the agency.

2. All staff shall be trained in infection control. Staff shall be trained prior to working with recipients and annually thereafter.

3. Risk assessment and screening of recipients reporting high risk behavior and symptoms of communicable disease.

4. Procedures to be followed for recipients known to have an infectious disease.

5. Provisions to offer directly or by referral to all recipients who voluntarily accept the offer for HIV/AIDS early intervention services to include, HIV pre-test and post-test counseling and case management and referral services, as needed, for medical care.

6. Substance Abuse Only: The provision of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, and TB education for all program admissions either provided by the agency or by referral.

7. Each recipient shall have training in infection control at program admission and annually thereafter.

8. A formal process for screening all program admissions for TB.

9. TB screening for all employees prior to initiation of duties. Annual screening shall occur only if there has been known exposure or evidence of ongoing TB transmission.

10. All staff shall be educated annually about TB including risk factors and signs and symptoms.

11. The entity shall document compliance with all laws and regulations regarding reporting of communicable diseases to the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Author: Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, DMH Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §22-50-11.

History: New Rule: Filed: December 19, 2019.