



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS CANADA AND SPECIAL OLYMPICS BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
**BLOOD-BORNE CONTAGIOUS INFECTIONS POLICY**

***This Policy has been prepared by Special Olympics Canada and is a Pan-Canadian Policy applicable to Special Olympics Canada and its Chapters. This document cannot be modified by a Chapter without consultation and approval from Special Olympics Canada.***

**EFFECTIVE DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2019**

**LAST REVISED: AUGUST 12, 2019**

**Definitions**

1. The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:
  - a) “*Athlete*” – an individual registered as an Athlete with Special Olympics Canada or a Chapter
  - b) “*Chapter*” – means the Provincial or Territorial Special Olympics organization recognized by Special Olympics Canada as a provincial or territorial governing body of Special Olympics
  - c) “*Individuals*” – means all individuals engaged in activities with, Special Olympics Canada and its Chapters including, but not limited to, employees, athletes, coaches, mission staff, chefs de mission, officials, volunteers, managers, administrators, committee members, parents or guardians
  - d) “*Organization-sanctioned event or activity*” – means any local, regional, provincial or national games, competitions, events, programs, or activities sanctioned by Special Olympics Canada or the Chapter.

**Purpose**

2. This Policy describes how any individual involved with Special Olympics in Canada who has a blood-borne contagious infection can participate in Special Olympics events and activities.

**Blood-Borne Contagious Infections**

3. No Organization-sanctioned event or activity may exclude or isolate from participation in any Special Olympics training or competition any individual who is known to be a carrier of a blood-borne contagious infection or virus, or otherwise discriminate against the person solely because of that medical condition.
4. In view of the risk that one or more Special Olympics participants may have a blood-borne contagious infection or virus, in conducting Special Olympics training and competition events, all Organization-sanctioned events or activities shall follow so-called "Universal Precautions" or "Universal Blood and Body Fluid Precautions" for every exposure to any person's blood, saliva or other bodily fluid. Always assume that all blood and body fluids are infectious for blood-borne diseases such as HBV (Hepatitis B Virus, HCV (Hepatitis C Virus) and HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus).

**PAN-CANADIAN POLICY**

5. Special Olympics Canada and its Chapters shall remain apprised of the written Universal Precautions when distributed by Special Olympics International.
  
6. Universal Precautions: Volunteers and staff should have non-latex gloves at Organization-sanctioned events and activities. To attend to a blood or body fluids situation, wear gloves, use paper towels to wipe up blood or body fluids, and then place in a new plastic bag. Clean and rinse area with usual disinfectant then wipe surface with a 1:10 dilution of household bleach in water. Dispose into the same plastic bag: paper towels, then gloves. Secure bag with tie. Dispose of plastic bag in garbage bin. Wash hands immediately and thoroughly with soap and water.

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