



# Department of Facilities POLICY AND PROCEDURE

POLICY NUMBER: 471  
VERSION: 1

## **SUBJECT: POLICY FOR CONSTRUCTION /REMODEL OPERATIONS AND**

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### **POLICY:**

Facilities personnel will identify infection control risks, interventions, and control strategies that shall be considered in planning of construction and renovation projects within the High Desert Health System (HDHS) and the health care clinics.

### **PURPOSE:**

To ensure a safe environment and prevent the transmission of nosocomial infections during contraction and renovation activities.

### **PROCEDURE:**

When you are selected to perform demolition, renovations, modifications, or other construction services, a team of qualified members of the Facilities Department, sub-contractors, our design professionals and the Infection Control Nurse will assess the impact of your work on the operations of the affected area. The assessment will consider the potential for disturbance of dust that could cause respiratory irritation, infections, or expose anyone to be exposed to hazards such as asbestos, mold or hazardous chemicals. It will evaluate the noise and vibration associated with construction operations and the potential for impact on our ability to provide patient care or perform normal business functions. It will evaluate the potential for disruption of utility services and communication systems. It will evaluate the impact on fire and life safety. It will evaluate the impact on our security program and systems.

Finally, each project will be carefully reviewed to determine if there are unique problems requiring special consideration during construction. The risk assessment will be used to develop plans to minimize the impact of the construction on patient care and business operations of HDHS and its Health Clinics. The risk assessment process will be repeated as often as necessary to assure effective management of the issues listed. You must recognize that the impact can vary from day to day. This will require flexibility on your part to meet the needs of the affected area.

The Joint commission requires the organization to document the risk assessment, the plans developed to manage the impact of construction and implementation of the plans. You will be required to participate in the documentation of compliance. When you participate in implementation and enforcement of the plans, your participation may include, training of your staff and sub-contractors, supplying specialized equipment to create or maintain environmental conditions, monitoring staff behavior, and enforcing safe work practices. You are also required to cooperate, when patient care considerations necessitate temporary disruption of construction.

Prior to the commencement of any work:

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1. Facilities Operations will work with shop supervisors, architects and engineers, and contractors to assess levels of noise, dust, and vibration prior to commencing construction/remodel work. Alternate methods shall be incorporated into a strategy to lessen/eliminate the impact of noise, dust, and vibration upon patients and staff.
2. An Infection Control consultation form will be completed by the Project Manager during the design phase and up-dated as necessary.
3. Infection control shall be notified prior to the commencement of any construction or renovation projects. The Infection Control nurse will review and approve plans for new construction or renovation projects, and issue a permit for the work to be performed.
4. Workers shall receive training on infection control practices and policies prior to the commencement of any actual construction work.

During Construction:

1. All recommendations set forth in the construction permit will follow all infectious control and safety precautions will be will be adhered to at all times, during construction.
2. Infection control measures at the construction site shall be monitored weekly.
3. In the event of a breach in Infection control precautions during construction, the incident will be reported to the assigned project manager. The construction related activity may be stopped, and the Infectious Control nurse notified.
4. The Project Manager will arrange for terminal cleaning at the projects completion and prior to the final walk through and occupancy.
5. A request may be submitted to Infection control to conduct a walk through upon completion of the project and prior to occupancy. The site shall be evaluated for integrity of the building, equipment services, cleanliness and compliance with local and state codes. Verification of special ventilation conditions, if any, may need to be inspected as well.

Approved By: Anthony Corliss (MANAGER I, FACILITIES OPERATIONS AND CRAFTS)	
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