



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

ROBERT B. STROUBE, M.D., M.P.H.
STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Department of Health

P. O. BOX 2448

RICHMOND, VA 23218

August 7, 1992

MEMORANDUM

To: CHS Operations Directors
District Directors

From: Robert B. Stroube, M.D., M.P.H.
State Health Commissioner

Subject: HB 568/Public Safety Employees and Testing for Blood-borne Pathogens

As you know, the 1992 General Assembly enacted legislation pertaining to the referenced subject. Each District Director will be my designee for carrying out in his/her district the responsibilities entrusted to me in the bill. Enclosed is a copy of the bill.

Public Safety agencies are likely to seek your advice about exposure prone incidents as defined in the bill. You will also be required to advise the General District and Circuit Court in this regard. Your decisions should be based on "Guidelines for the Prevention and Transmission of HIV and Hepatitis B Virus to Health Care and Public Safety Workers" published in the MMWR Recommendations and Reports, No. S-6, of June 23, 1989. A copy is enclosed. Doctors Martin Cader and Grayson Miller will be happy to work with you in arriving at a decision.

The bill does explicitly state that, if blood is tested for evidence of HIV infection or hepatitis B pursuant to an exposure prone incident, disclosure of test results shall be made to the district health director. If so, you or a member of your staff is required to disclose the test results to the person who was exposed and the one tested, counsel them, and preserve the confidentiality of the test results as you would for any other patient.

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Testing will be available through the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS). You should be hearing shortly from the DCLS about procedures for submitting blood samples for testing.

Enclosures

pc: James W. Blaine, Ph.D.
Grayson B. Miller, Jr., M.D.
A. Martin Cader, M.D.