

Health Risks

Background Notes

As Child Welfare workers, we visit homes that may lack general sanitation and have occupants that do not follow good health practices. While it is expected that all clients will be provided the same degree of service, and not treated differently because of an assumption that they may be infected with a transmittable disease, precautions need to be taken.

Tasks / Assignments:

- Read the Routes of Transmission for common diseases:

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/CommunicableDisease/Pages/transmission.aspx>

- Find out what the most common health risks are to child welfare staff by interviewing two staff, one Permanency and one on CPS, regarding their experience with diseases during home visits or CPS assessments.
- Find out what supplies, such as gloves and hand sanitizer might be available and any expectations around their use.
- Find out the procedure for reporting exposure to disease, blood, etc.

Discoveries:

- *What are the typical health risks to a child welfare worker?*
- *What are the common health issues seen by workers in the field?*