In order to prevent the spread of a communicable disease throughout the SYSC, residents suspected of or diagnosed as being infectious or having a communicable disease are to be isolated from other residents and non-medical staff.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to establish the SYSC medical isolation procedure.

**Procedure**

I. **Determination of the Need for Isolation**

A. The SYSC nurse in consultation with the Health Authority, upon performing a physical assessment of a resident, shall determine if that resident needs to be isolated due to his/her being infectious or having a communicable disease.

II. **Isolation**

A. The SYSC isolation procedure is as follows:

1. **Short-Term Isolation**

   (a) When deemed necessary and appropriate, the resident shall be moved to the infirmary, where he/she shall remain until the need for isolation no longer exists. If it is determined that the resident should not be moved from his/her unit bedroom, then bathroom and hand-washing arrangements shall be made in the residential unit and the nurse shall complete a Med Memo to outline the specific instructions as to the care and treatment of the resident.

   (b) The nurse shall notify the physician and follow the standard operating procedure for the specific communicable disease and its plan of care.

2. **Long-Term Isolation**

   (a) With a physician’s order, the nurse shall notify the Manager of Health who shall notify the Residential Bureau Chief to arrange for long-term isolation.

   (b) If possible, a medical furlough shall be arranged with the parent/legal guardian. The nurse shall contact the Bureau Chief of Residential Services,
who will make the final decision and initiate the process for medical furlough. The nurse shall provide appropriate information and medical plans for follow-up care to the parent/legal guardian and to the Treatment Coordinator.

(c) When a medical furlough is not possible, arrangements shall be made for containing the resident’s isolation in the infirmary.

III. Notification and Documentation

   A. The following notice and documentation shall take place:

      1. The nurse shall explain the procedure to the resident.

      2. The nurse shall document the isolation in the medical log and in a nursing progress note.

IV. Media

   A. Any media release regarding the isolation of any resident shall follow the following procedures:

      1. Approval of the Director.

      2. Approval with the Department’s Public Information Office.