



## Preventing Disease Transmission

**Training Partners are responsible to supply mannequins, protective equipment, and appropriate decontamination supplies for Red Cross courses.**

**As an additional classroom resource on PDT for Instructors and students, instructors can order the Red Cross Preventing Disease Transmission manual.**

The Canadian Red Cross has a responsibility to safeguard the health and safety of participants enrolled in any Canadian Red Cross course. The materials and procedures found in the *Vital Link* Program reflect this concern.

As a Training Partner, one of your responsibilities is to protect learners from health risks. The procedure is designed to:

- Limit the risk of transmission of communicable diseases.
- Limit the risk of one learner injuring another when practicing on a partner.
- Limit the risk of any strenuous practice that could cause injury or sudden illness.

Instructors have this information in their Instructor manual and Information & Policy Guide.

If the student is a lay-rescuer, he/she does not have to ventilate in the mannequin, but can demonstrate by blowing onto the ground beside the mannequin. If the student has a duty to respond in his or her job, ventilation into the mannequin is required, to show the Instructor proper technique. Participants are encouraged to use a mouth barrier device for these skills. (Note: Although a learner may not currently be a designated responder, this duty may be accepted by the student in the future and should be considered when demonstrating effective ventilation).

The standard for First Aid Instructor demonstration to students is to show ventilation into the mannequin with a barrier device. When demonstrating this skill to students, the First Aid Instructor will use only barrier devices suitable for the mannequin being used.

When Instructors are recertifying their First Aid Instructor certificates, they must bring a barrier device to the recert and demonstrate to the Instructor Trainer ability to ventilate the mannequin properly with this device.

Mannequin decontamination must be completed after each session. For example, if you use mannequins on a Friday evening, you must disassemble and clean them at the conclusion of the Friday session. If you are using the same mannequins again on the Saturday, they must be thoroughly cleaned again. This is the responsibility of the Instructor/Instructor Trainer to ensure the safety of the course participants and cannot be considered an option.

You may wish to offer mouth barriers for sale to your customers, or include them in course materials. Pocket masks are available through Red Cross Contact Centres.

### **Mannequin Decontamination \* (July 14, 1989)**

Mannequins must be decontaminated during use, as described in the following sections. Some of the newer mannequins have disposable plastic bags that protrude from the mouth and cover the mannequin's face. Others have individual mannequin faces that can be applied for each person's practice and removed after the person has practiced a skill. Use only models of mannequins that can be decontaminated after use according to the recommendations below.

### **Mannequin Decontamination Supplies**

To decontaminate mannequins during use, you need a decontaminating solution and a large number of gauze pads. The recommended solution is 60 ml of liquid chlorine bleach per 5 litres of tap water. This solution should be made before each class and discarded after use. Do not use scented bleach, which contains perfume, because it may give a taste to the plastic.

Since some people find bleach objectionable, a 70% alcohol solution (isopropanol or ethanol) can be used as an alternative. Although alcohol kills many bacteria and viruses, there are some that it will not kill. However, if the mannequin's face is scrubbed vigorously with 70 percent alcohol and a clean gauze pad, it is highly unlikely that any infectious disease will be transmitted.

### **Mannequin Decontamination Procedure**

Read the manufacturer's instructions regarding mannequin decontamination. Each mannequin has specific requirements on its use and decontamination (e.g., ACTARS are only designed for use by one person and should not be shared).

During practice sessions, the mannequin's entire face and the inside of its mouth must be cleaned after use by each learner. Demonstrate the following procedure, telling learners that they should use this procedure to clean the face after they use the mannequin.

- Dry the mannequin's face with a clean 4" x 4" gauze pad.
- Wet a second clean gauze pad with decontaminating solution. Squeeze excess solution from the pad.
- Scrub the mannequin's face and the inside of its mouth vigorously with the soaked pad (being careful not to tear the mouth).
- Place the wet pad over the mannequin's mouth and nose and wait 30 seconds.
- Discard the pad and let the mannequin's face air-dry. This is an important part of the decontamination process.

### **Mannequin Decontamination After Class**

As soon as possible after the end of each class session, all mannequins should be cleaned properly. In addition to the decontamination solution and gauze pads, you need a baby bottle brush, soap and water, basins or buckets, non-sterile disposable gloves, and any other supplies

recommended by the mannequin manufacturer. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for correct disassembly.

Scrub the parts with warm, soapy water, rinse, and decontaminate with a solution of liquid household chlorine bleach and water (60 ml of bleach to 5 litres of water). Vigorous scrubbing with soap and water is as important as scrubbing with bleach. Wear disposable gloves while decontaminating mannequins. The mannequin's body, hair and clothes should be washed periodically to ensure continued cleanliness.

\* Training Partners should use decontamination procedures, as per manufacturer's guidelines, for pocket masks, snorkels, and other pieces of equipment where the potential for cross-contamination may exist.