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February 17, 2023

TO: RAILS Board

FROM: Monica Harris, Executive Director

SUBJECT: RAILS Communicable Diseases Policy

The attached Communicable Diseases Policy was developed in order to provide a broader policy that will reflect the current practice of RAILS regarding our response to communicable diseases. The changes remove practices that are no longer in place while expanding the scope or response to diseases beyond COVID-19.

If approved, this policy will replace the COVID-19 Policy, last approved on October 22, 2021. The Policy Committee at their February 8 meeting voted that this policy be recommended to the RAILS Board for approval.

RAILS Communicable Diseases Policy

Updated 02/01/23-approved by RAILS Board Policy Committee 2/8/2023

RAILS' decisions involving persons who have communicable diseases shall be based on current and well-informed medical judgments concerning the disease, the risks of transmitting the illness to others, the symptoms and special circumstances of each individual who has a communicable disease, and a careful weighing of the identified risks and the available alternative for responding to an employee with a communicable disease.

Communicable diseases include, but are not limited to, measles, influenza, viral hepatitis-A (infectious hepatitis), viral hepatitis-B (serum hepatitis), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV infection), AIDS, AIDS-Related Complex (ARC), leprosy, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), including the SARS-CoV-2 (coronavirus) and tuberculosis. RAILS may choose to broaden this definition within its best interest and in accordance with information received through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and local health departments.

RAILS will not discriminate against any job applicant or employee based on the individual having a communicable disease. Applicants and employees shall not be denied access to the workplace solely on the grounds that they have a communicable disease. RAILS reserves the right to exclude a person with a communicable disease from the workplace facilities, programs and functions if the organization finds that, based on a medical determination, such restriction is necessary for the welfare of the person who has the communicable disease and/or the welfare of others within the workplace.

RAILS will comply with all applicable statutes and regulations that protect the privacy of persons who have a communicable disease. Every effort will be made to ensure procedurally sufficient safeguards to maintain the personal confidence about persons who have communicable diseases.

Additional procedures may be developed as necessary in adherence with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and local health departments.