Course Purpose:
This course is designed to give individuals entering healthcare-related professions the necessary knowledge and tools to protect themselves and others from infectious diseases.

Course Description:
Information regarding the concepts of basic infection control for healthcare providers will be provided and discussed. These concepts include: Historical and Current Perspectives; Legal Issues; Infectious and Communicable Diseases; The Immune System; Protection from Disease in the Healthcare Setting; Isolation Practices; Chain of Infection; and Post Exposure Protocols.

Information will be provided on The Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens Standard. The purpose of the Standard is to minimize or eliminate occupational exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials. The bloodborne pathogens emphasized include HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C. Airborne pathogens that are of particular concern to healthcare workers will also be included in this discussion. The airborne pathogens emphasized include Tuberculosis and Influenza.

The role of governmental agencies in public health decisions and policies will be presented. Federal, state, and local agencies will be included in this discussion. It will be shown how communication and interaction among the various agencies are the keys to public health and safety.

Categories of “Diseases of Concern” will be presented in more detail. These categories include Vector-Borne Diseases, Bloodborne Illnesses, Respiratory Illnesses, Foodborne Illnesses, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and Vaccine Preventable Diseases. Emphasis will be placed on the causative agent, transmission, susceptibility, signs/symptoms, treatment, healthcare precautions, and preventive measures. Additionally, the basic principles of Healthcare-Associated Infections, Antimicrobial Resistance, and MRSA will be discussed.

The basic concepts of using infectious agents as a weapon (Bioterrorism) will be introduced. Healthcare precautions will be emphasized.

Expected Course Outcomes:

1. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate knowledge in concepts of basic infection control by:
   a. defining key terms used in infection control.
   b. discussing the history of infectious disease.
   c. recognizing modern-day concerns and threats.
   d. identifying key governmental legislation and agencies in infection control practices.
   e. understanding the key elements in negligence lawsuits.
   f. differentiating infectious disease and communicable disease.
   g. identifying pathogens and mode of transmission.
   h. understanding the chain of infection.
   i. identifying ways to prevent healthcare-associated infections.
j. discussing the impact of antimicrobial resistance.
k. describing the main principles of the immune response.
i. discussing transmission-based precautions.
l. listing the steps that should be taken after an exposure.

2. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate knowledge in the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard by:
a. identifying common serious bloodborne pathogens in the workplace.
b. explaining transmission of bloodborne pathogens.
c. identifying other potentially infectious materials.
d. discussing guidelines for preventing exposure to bloodborne pathogens.
e. describing Standard and Universal Precautions.
f. identifying emergency procedures.
g. understanding the importance of Personal Protective Equipment.
h. listing work practice controls.
i. listing engineering controls.
j. discussing exposure control plans.

3. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate knowledge in common airborne diseases for which occupational exposure is a concern by:
a. identifying the common serious airborne pathogens in the workplace.
b. explaining transmission of airborne pathogens.
c. describing prevention of airborne pathogens.
d. discussing infection exposure and record keeping.

4. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate knowledge of “Diseases of Concern” by:
a. listing the causative agent.
b. understanding the body system affected and the basic signs/symptoms.
c. identifying basic concepts of susceptibility and mode of transmission.
d. understanding potential patient treatment.
e. describing healthcare precautions.
f. understanding prophylaxis and other preventive measures.

5. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate knowledge of infectious agents used as weapons by:
a. discussing the history of biological agents as they pertain to warfare and terrorism.
b. differentiating between potential agents as they apply to current modern-day concerns.
c. describing a healthcare worker’s priority.