



King County

Office of Law Enforcement Oversight

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TO: Sheriff John Urquhart

FR: Deborah Jacobs, Director, Office of Law Enforcement Oversight

RE: Recommendation on GOM 5.01.015 Spit hood policy

Your office adopted a Spit Hood policy in April 2017. This policy was adopted prior to OLEO's new ordinance taking effect, but I appreciate the opportunity to provide recommendations on it. We reviewed the policy and suggest that you add the language highlighted below.

5.01.015

SPIT HOODS: 04/17

Spit hoods are temporary protective devices designed to prevent the wearer from spitting on others. Deputies may use a spit hood if a suspect is actively spitting on deputies or others, or the deputies have a reasonable belief that the suspect will spit on them or others.

1. When using a spit hood deputies shall:

- a. Ensure that the spit hood is applied properly to allow for adequate ventilation.
- b. Maintain observation of the suspect while the spit hood is worn.
 - The spit hood should be removed if there are any signs of respiratory distress.

2. Only clean spit hoods shall be used.

- Deputies will not reapply a used spit hood. If a subsequent application is required for the same suspect, a new spit hood shall be used.

3. Spit hoods should not be used on suspects that are vomiting or bleeding significantly from their mouth, nose or head as it poses a risk of suffocation.

- If a person begins to vomit or bleed from their mouth, nose or head while wearing a spit hood, the spit hood shall be promptly removed and discarded.

4. Deputies shall place used spit hoods in a plastic biohazard bag and dispose of in a biohazard waste receptacle.

5. Deputies will document the use of a spit hood in their incident report.