

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

Bloodborne Pathogens Standard

29 CFR Part 1910.1030

Agenda

- What are Bloodborne Pathogens
- How Infection Occurs (Exposure Incidents)
- Universal Precautions
- Prevention of Exposure Incidents
- Exposure Incident Procedure

What are Bloodborne Pathogens?

- ▶ They are viruses, bacteria and other microorganisms that are “borne” (carried) in a person’s bloodstream.
- ▶ Examples include HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C

Why are we Concerned?

- Accidental contact with contaminated blood can infect a person who is providing first aid or who is cleaning up a spill of blood or other body fluid.
- For an infection to occur one (1) of the following must occur:
 - The infected blood (or other fluid) contacts broken skin (a cut, rash, abrasion, etc.) -OR-
 - The infected blood (or other fluid) contacts a mucus membrane (eye, nose, mouth, etc.)Either event is called an Exposure Incident.

Exposure Potential

- ▶ There is a potential that you would be exposed to blood or other bodily fluid in the following ways:
 - Caring for an ill or injured person who is experiencing bleeding or loss of another body fluid
 - During a clean-up incident following an injury or illness in which bleeding or loss of another body fluid occurred

Universal Precautions

- We can not tell by looking at any individual if they are infected with a bloodborne pathogen.
- Because we do not know if an individual is infected, **by law**, we must treat all blood and other body fluids as if they are infected. This approach is called Universal Precautions.

- You must always wear required personal protective equipment (PPE) and take the appropriate cleaning and sanitation steps to prevent exposure to yourselves and to others.

Universal Precautions are established by the Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA)

Prevention of Exposure Incidents

- Always wear the required level of PPE when responding
- Clean and sanitize any surfaces that were in contact with blood or other body fluid
- Remove PPE carefully and discard in the appropriate container
- Wash your hands immediately with large amounts of soap and warm water
- All employees are eligible to receive the Hepatitis B Vaccine

The Hepatitis Virus

- ▶ There are at least six (6) different Hepatitis viruses
- ▶ About four (4) million Americans are infected with Hepatitis C
- ▶ Another 150,000 to 170,000 more Americans are infected each year
- ▶ Having one (1) form of Hepatitis does not protect you from contracting another form

Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C

- ▶ Hepatitis B
 - Becomes chronic 15% of the time
 - Can survive on environmental surfaces and at room temperature for at least one (1) week and maybe over fifty (50) days
- ▶ Hepatitis C
 - Is a major cause of chronic liver disease
 - Symptoms include extreme fatigue
 - You can catch the disease and not feel any symptoms

Personal Protective Equipment

- Safety glasses with side shields: Required for all bloodborne pathogen response
- Face shield: Use if blood or other fluid could splash, spray or become airborne
- Disposable gloves: Required for all bloodborne pathogen response
- Apron/disposable suit and shoe covers: Use if blood or other fluid could splash, spray or become airborne or otherwise come in contact with the feet and body
- Barrier mask/bag valve mask: For CPR or mouth to mouth/nose/stoma breathing

Clean-up and Sanitation

- ▶ Wear all required PPE
- ▶ Treat all spills, bandages, etc. with the sanitizing solution used by the school board
- ▶ Place any material that has been used for clean-up, and is going to be disposed of, in a red, bio-hazard container
- ▶ Wipe up surfaces that were in contact with the spill using the designated sanitizer

What to do if Exposed

- If another person's blood or body fluid contacts your skin or mucus membranes (eyes, nose, mouth, etc.), follow these steps:
 - Wash skin with large amounts of soap and warm water
 - Flush mucus membranes with large amounts of warm water
 - Report the incident to your supervisor

Conclusion

- Unprotected contact with blood, contaminated with bloodborne pathogens, can transmit the disease through contact with broken skin, eyes, nose, mouth, etc.
- Observe Universal Precautions: Always treat blood and other body fluids as if they are contaminated by bloodborne pathogens
- Wear necessary Personal Protective Equipment
- Clean and sanitize any spill area with sanitizer
- Report any suspected exposure incident

Hepatitis B Vaccination

- ▶ New employees can receive a FREE Hepatitis B vaccination that consists of three (3) shots.
- ▶ To request this benefit, you must download and complete the voucher request.
- ▶ To decline this benefit, you must download and complete the declination form.

For More Information

Regarding Bloodborne Pathogens, or other safety issues, please contact the Safety & Security Department at (352) 797-7054.