

Blood and certain body fluids of all persons are considered potentially infectious for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), and other bloodborne pathogens. "Universal Blood & Body Fluid Precautions" shall be consistently used regardless of any person's bloodborne infection status. These precautions are intended to prevent parenteral, mucous membrane, and non-intact skin exposures of workers to bloodborne pathogens.

Universal Precautions APPLY to blood and other body fluids containing visible blood. These precautions also apply to semen and vaginal secretions although these have not been implicated in occupational exposures.

Universal Precautions DO NOT APPLY to feces, nasal secretions, sputum, sweat, tears, urine, or vomitus unless they contain visible blood.

1. Use of Protective Barriers

- A. Gloves shall be worn for touching blood or body fluids containing visible blood, mucous membranes or non-intact skin and for handling items or surfaces soiled with blood or body fluids that contain visible blood. Gloves shall be changed after each individual contact. Note: Rubber gloves are recommended for cleaning any body fluid spill (i.e., vomitus, urine, or feces) because these body fluids commonly transmit other infections (Hepatitis A, salmonella).
- B. Masks and protective eyewear prevent exposure of the mucous membranes of the eye, nose, or mouth. They shall be worn if the procedure or care given is likely to produce droplets of blood or fluids contaminated with blood.
- C. Hands, skin surfaces, and clothing shall be washed thoroughly and as soon as possible if they become contaminated with blood or body fluids containing visible blood.
- D. Precautions shall be taken to prevent injuries caused by needles or other sharp instruments or devices.
  - When cleaning instruments.
  - During disposal of needles. Needles shall not be recapped, bent, or broken by hand or removed from disposable syringes.
  - Needles and sharp instruments shall be immediately placed in puncture resistant containers which are located as close as practical to use area.

2. Minor Scrapes & Cuts

When possible, students shall be encouraged to take care of their own minor injuries. They can wash the cuts and apply bandages. Employees who help clean minor cuts and scrapes should remember that getting blood on their own unbroken skin is not a risk. HIV cannot penetrate unbroken skin. Hands should be washed afterwards.

3. Large Blood Spills (as from serious nosebleeds or cuts)

Employees shall provide a barrier between their skin and the blood of others. This can be done with rubber gloves. Teachers or coaches can also encourage students to apply pressure with their own hand over a bloody nose or wound, and the teacher can press down on the student's hand. A thick layer of paper towels or cloth can also provide a barrier.

#### 4. Cleaning & Decontaminating Spills of Blood

All spills of fluids containing visible blood shall be promptly cleaned up using an EPA-approved germicide or a 1:100 solution of household bleach in the following manner while wearing gloves.

- A. Visible blood shall be first removed with disposable towels or other appropriate means that will ensure against direct contact with blood.
- B. If splashing is anticipated, protective eyewear shall be worn along with an impervious gown or apron that provides an effective barrier to splashes.
- C. The area shall then be decontaminated with an appropriate germicide.
- D. Hands shall be washed following removal of gloves.
- E. Soiled cleaning equipment shall be cleaned and decontaminated or placed in an appropriate container and disposed according to school policy.
- F. Non-reusable contaminated items shall be placed in a plastic bag and disposed as conventional garbage.
- G. Plastic bags shall be available for removal of contaminated items from the site of the spill.

#### 5. Disposing of Soiled Linen

Blood contaminated linen shall be handled as little as possible. The linen should be placed and transported in bags that prevent leakage. Normal laundry cycles shall be used according to the washer and detergent manufacturer's recommendations. Hot water is not necessary for decontamination purposes.

Reviewed: ~~07/08/16~~  
11/15/21