

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS

The use of universal precautions prevents the transmission of blood-borne pathogens. Transmission of these pathogens is very rare in the school setting, with very low risk to most employees. Those individuals who are more likely to be exposed are custodial staff, school nurse or health office personnel, physical education teachers and coaches, and special education staff for those students who are more severely disabled.

Prevention of exposure includes the following practices and procedures:

1. Universal precautions: All staff members, including custodial staff and bus drivers, will be trained annually or as needed, in the use of universal precautions. All blood and body fluids are considered a potential carrier of infectious disease.
2. Personal protective equipment: The School District will provide employees with barrier gloves for clean up. Latex gloves will be available to all staff at all times in the health office. Other protective equipment (gowns, masks, protective eyewear) may be negotiated between the employee and the administration if the need arises.
3. Engineering Controls: The School District will provide appropriate containers for disposal of contaminated items, e.g. a sharps container is located in the health office.
4. Work practice controls: The School District will identify specific personnel to deal with blood borne hazards on a regular basis. These may include the school nurse; personnel trained to administer first aid, custodians responsible for cleaning up all body fluids. Hand washing facilities need to be available. When they are not, antiseptic wipes or gel need to be available.

Procedures in case of exposure:

1. Exposure control report: A written report will be kept on file for (OSHA recommends 30 years). The report should document the route of exposure and the circumstances related to the incident.
2. Persons exposed to blood or body fluids that may be at potential risk for HIV or HBV will be offered medical evaluation and treatment at the expense of the district.
3. Those individuals considered being at most risk may receive at no cost to the employee HBV immunization as a preventative means, or, if exposed, as a treatment within 24 hours of exposure. If the employee declines the immunization, a waiver should be signed and kept on file. Employees who initially decline the immunization, but later change their minds, may then receive it at no cost.

Mrs. Priscilla Colbath, Chairperson
Mrs. Janet Gagnon
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