

Bloodborne Pathogens

What School Employees need to know

Objectives

- Define “blood borne pathogens”
- Describe direct and indirect modes of transmission
- Recognize situations when exposure can occur
- Understand importance of immunization against Hepatitis B
- Identify the exposure control plan, its location and appropriate post exposure action

OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration)

- Enforces Standards for protection to reduce the risk of contracting a bloodborne disease
- Micro-organisms that may be present in human blood or other body fluids with visible blood:

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis C

HIV



Blood borne Pathogens:

- Microorganisms such as viruses or bacteria
- Carried in blood and cause disease in humans
- Examples of bloodborne pathogens:

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis C

HIV

Hepatitis B (HBV)

- Virus that infects the liver
- Transmitted through blood to blood contact
- Hepatitis B can survive for at least **one week dried at room temperature on surfaces**
- Can lead to cirrhosis and liver cancer
- Symptoms may occur 1-9 months after exposure
- Vaccine available to prevent Hepatitis B

Hepatitis C (HCV)

- Caused by a virus
- Causes inflammation of the liver
- Potential for chronic liver disease (HCV may have no symptoms for more than 20 years ---- and it slowly damages the liver)
- Transmitted through exposure to blood
- No vaccine available to prevent Hepatitis C

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

- Virus may cause AIDS
- Primarily of concern to employees providing first aid or medical care in situations involving fresh blood
- Fragile virus – does not survive long outside the human body
- No preventable vaccine

HIV

- Virus attacks the body's immune system
- Virus may present with flu-like symptoms
- May show NO symptoms for several years
- Eventually person develops AIDS

Direct Modes of Transmission of Bloodborne Pathogens

- Blood to blood contact
- Body fluids (ex. sexual contact)
- Sharing of Hypodermic needles
- From mother to baby before or during birth
- Accidental puncture from contaminated needles, broken glass or other sharps
- Contact with virus through damaged or broken skin (open sores, cuts, abrasions, dermatitis, acne)
- Mucous membranes of your eyes, mouth and nose

Indirect modes of Transmission

- Did you know..... HBV can survive on surfaces dried at room temperature for a week
- Blood contaminated surfaces – if you touch a contaminated surface you may transfer the virus to your mouth, eyes, nose or non-intact skin
- Contaminated surfaces should be disinfected immediately or as soon as possible after any spill of blood or other infectious materials

Risks in School Setting

- Fortunately, your risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens is usually low
- Be prepared: Know what to do and use universal precautions in dealing with blood
- If a surface is contaminated with blood or body fluids, notify the custodial staff to ensure proper disinfection



Universal Precautions

- Method of infection control recommended by the CDC (Center for Disease Control)
- All blood and body fluids are handled as if they are known to be infected with HIV, HBV and/or other bloodborne pathogens

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- PPE must be supplied, cleaned and repaired by the employer at no cost
- Barriers to potentially infectious material:
 - Gloves
 - Goggles
 - Aprons, scrubs, lab coats
 - Face shields, masks
 - Resuscitation bags
 - Pocket masks



How to Protect yourself

- Receive the Hepatitis B vaccine (HBV)
- Use appropriate protective equipment
- Wash hands frequently, especially after contact with blood or body fluids
- Wash hands for at least 15 seconds with antibacterial soap
- **ALWAYS** wash hands after removing gloves



How to Protect Yourself (Continued)

- When removing gloves, turn gloves inside out to prevent any contamination with your skin
- NEVER reuse gloves
- Materials used to clean up blood/body fluids must be properly disposed
 - Ex. Secure plastic bag of soiled materials and double bag before placing in trash receptacle



Hepatitis B vaccine

- Employees with a potential exposure to blood borne pathogens must be offered the vaccine FREE of charge
- Vaccine is a series of 3 injections given over a 6-month period
- Disease cannot be contracted from the vaccine



Staff Responsibility

- Always use universal precautions
- Respect sharps (needles, glass or other sharp objects)
- Get immunized against Hepatitis B (if you decline, you must sign a declination form)
- Immediately report all exposures to the nurse or supervisor
- Comply with post exposure follow-up
- Complete annual bloodborne pathogen training

Exposure Plan

- Wash hands and body surfaces that have been contaminated with blood or body fluids
- Flush eyes and exposed mucous membranes with large amount of water
- Report exposure to the nurse and/or supervisor even if it occurs in school after the school day
- Employer must provide medical evaluation and/or follow-up

In Conclusion....

- #1 Method to prevent illness is HANDWASHING
- Wash hands or other exposed skin as soon as possible after exposure
- Wet hands with running water
- Dispense cleanser on hands
- Wash vigorously for 15-20 seconds
- Rinse under running water
- Dry thoroughly
- It is okay to use waterless cleanser, But wash hands with soap and water as soon as possible

QUESTIONS

- If you have any further questions, please contact your school nurse who will be able to assist you.
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