

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS INFORMATION)

I. GENERAL

The following guidelines are meant to provide simple and effective precautions against transmission of disease for all persons potentially exposed to the blood or body fluids of any person. The guidelines are applicable regardless of the medical status of any individual.

A. RISK OF CONTACT WITH BODY FLUIDS

1. The body fluids of all persons should be considered to contain potentially infectious agents.
2. The term "body fluids" includes: blood, semen, drainage from scrapes and cuts, feces urine, vomitus, respiratory secretions (e.g., nasal discharge), menstrual fluid and saliva
3. Contact with body fluids presents a very low risk of infection which is dependent on a variety of factors including the type of fluid with which contact is made and the type of contact made with it.
4. With the exception of blood and urine, which are normally sterile, the body fluids with which one may come in contact usually contain many organisms, some of which may cause disease.
5. Many agents may be carried by individuals who have no symptoms of illness. These individuals may be at various stages of infections:
 - a. incubating disease
 - b. mildly infected without symptoms
 - c. chronic carriers of certain infectious agents including HIV and hepatitis viruses
6. Transmission of communicable diseases is more likely to occur from contact with infected body fluids of unrecognized carriers than from contact with fluids from recognized individuals because simple precautions are not always carried out.

B. PROCEDURES TO AVOID CONTACT WITH BODY FLUIDS

1. Avoid direct skin contact with body fluids when possible.
2. Disposable gloves should be available in the offices or work station of the parish secretary, custodian, nurse, or principal.
3. Gloves are recommended when direct hand contact with body fluids is anticipated (e.g., treating bloody noses, handling clothes soiled by incontinence, cleaning small spills by hand).
4. Hands should be washed afterwards.

C. PROCEDURES IF DIRECT CONTACT WITH BODY FLUIDS SHOULD OCCUR

1. Unanticipated skin contact with body fluids may occur in a situation where gloves may be immediately unavailable (e.g., when wiping a runny nose, applying pressure to a bleeding injury outside the classroom, helping a child in the bathroom).
2. In these instances, hands and other affected skin areas of all exposed persons should be thoroughly washed with soap and water after direct contact has ceased.
3. Proper handwashing requires the use of soap and water and vigorous washing under a stream of running water for at least 10 seconds.

D. PROCEDURES FOR DISPOSING OF ITEMS CONTAMINATED WITH BODY FLUIDS

1. Contaminated disposable items such as plastic gloves, tissues, paper towels, and diapers should be secured in plastic bags and placed in the garbage.

2. Clothing, towels, and other launderable items may be secured in plastic bags and returned to the person for ordinary laundering if contamination is light (such as shirt spattered with blood).
3. If an item is soaked beyond capacity of the available laundry facilities to clean it, it should be bagged and discarded.

E. PROCEDURES FOR REMOVING SPILLED BODY FLUIDS FROM THE ENVIRONMENT

1. Sanitary absorbent agents specifically intended for cleaning body fluid spills are commercially available (e.g., ZGOOP*, Parsen Manufacturing Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania). Disposable gloves should be worn when using these agents.
2. The dry material is applied to the area, left for a few minutes to absorb the fluid, and then vacuumed or swept up.
3. The vacuum bag or sweepings should be disposed of in a plastic bag.
4. Broom and dustpan should be rinsed in a disinfectant.
5. No special handling is required for vacuuming equipment.
6. The disinfectant procedure under item VI below should then be followed.

F. PROCEDURES FOR DISINFECTING HARD SURFACES

1. An intermediate level disinfectant should be used to clean surfaces contaminated with body fluids.
2. The disinfectant should be registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use as a disinfectant in medical facilities and hospitals.
3. Various classes of disinfectants are listed below. Hypochlorite solution (bleach) is preferred for objects that may be put in the mouth.
 - a. Ethyl or isopropyl alcohol (70%)
 - b. Phenolic germicidal detergent in a 1% aqueous solution (e.g., Lysol).
 - c. Sodium hypochlorite (laundry bleach) with at least 100 ppm available chlorine (1/2 cup household bleach in 1 gallon water, needs to be freshly prepared each time it is used).
 - d. Quaternary ammonium germicidal detergent in 2% aqueous solution (e.g., Tri Mytar* or Sage*).
 - e. Iodophor germicidal detergent with 500 ppm available iodine (e.g., Wescodyne*).

* Disposable Gloves:

Ransdell Surgical, Inc., 752 Barrett Ave., 584-6311, will sell suitable latex or plastic gloves to parishes and schools, at their wholesale price rate. These latex or plastic gloves are available in boxes of 100.

* Brand names are used only for examples of each type of chemical agent and should not be considered an endorsement of a specific product.

06/21/01