

# **BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS**

## **Annual Mandatory Professional Development for All School Staff**

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Completion of this annual professional development satisfies Federal and State OSHA standards for occupational exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens. New employees who have not had the full in-service are required to read the booklet (see school nurse) in addition to reading this information. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding content, please contact your school nurse. Exposure Control Plan is located in each school office and at the board office; you may request a copy.

### **BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS**

Bloodborne pathogens are microorganisms which cause disease in humans and are present in human blood and other body fluids such as semen, vaginal fluid, saliva and breast milk. Diseases include, but are not limited to those caused by Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). School Employees face potential exposure to a variety of infectious diseases every day. The common cold, chicken pox, influenza, impetigo, ringworm, head lice, strep throat and other infectious diseases regularly visit schools everywhere. They pass from person to person when people share air, space and equipment. Bloodborne pathogens, particularly those that cause AIDS and Hepatitis B, add new life threatening risks to the school setting and danger to the health of all school employees. HIV and HBV infections are particularly dangerous in the school setting because it is difficult or impossible to tell who may be infected. Infected individuals often have no apparent symptoms and may not even realize they are infected. They may not look sick, yet they may transmit the virus to others. Report all exposures to the Office of the School Nurse. A medical evaluation will be given for true exposures.

## **UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS**

You can reduce the likelihood of being exposed to HIV, HBV and other infectious diseases by exercising Universal Precautions. Taking universal precautions means to treat all human blood and body fluids as potentially infectious. Taking universal precautions will help protect you from all infectious diseases. It prepares you to handle safely any solution that may involve the blood or body fluids of another person. These precautions will significantly improve the health and safety in the school setting for you and others. Some measures of personal protection:

1. Wash your hands before eating and after toilet use or any contact with blood, body fluids, or dirty objects.
2. If possible, help injured persons care for themselves.
3. Create a waterproof barrier (i.e. gloves, goggles, gown, etc) between yourself and body fluids that may contain blood.
4. Clean all surfaces and dirty tools with approved disinfectant (i.e. freshly prepared bleach solution).
5. Utilize red sharps containers to dispose of contaminated broken glass, needles, etc.

## **HEPATITIS B**

Hepatitis B is a form of viral hepatitis, or inflammation of the liver that is caused by an infectious agent called the Hepatitis B virus (HBV). This infection causes liver cell damage, which can lead to scarring of the liver (cirrhosis), and increased risk of liver cancer. Many people with acute Hepatitis B have no symptoms at all, or may be very mild and flu like; loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, muscle or joint aches and mild fever. Also, dark urine, yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice), or light colored stools.

HBV can survive outside the body for at least 10 days on a dry surface and is 100 times more contagious than the AIDS virus. It may be transmitted through contact with blood and body fluids. There is a safe and effective vaccine against Hepatitis B. Call 232-5179 for information regarding this vaccine.