

Universal Precautions



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Introduction

- Approximately 5.6 million workers are at risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV – the virus that causes AIDS), the hepatitis B virus (HBV), and the hepatitis C virus (HCV)
- The better you understand the risks involved in exposure to bloodborne pathogens, the easier it is to take measures to protect yourself and co-workers.
- It is important to remember, that even if blood is not visible, it can still be found in body fluids.

What Can I Be Exposed To?

- HIV/AIDS
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C



Who's at Risk?

EVERYONE!

- ❖ Any Staff Member who assists a student or a fellow worker with an injury where blood or body fluids are present.
- ❖ Anyone cleaning up blood or body fluids spills from any hard surfaces.

How does exposure occur?

- To transmit HIV, HBV, or HCV in the workplace, there must be contact between broken skin or mucous membranes and infected blood.
- HIV, Hepatitis B or C are not spread through the air like cold and flu germs.
- You won't get infected from working alongside an infected person, coughing or sneezing.
- You won't get infected from telephones or bathrooms.
- You won't get infected from eating utensils, water fountains, gym equipment or swimming pools.
- You won't get infected from donating blood.

Universal Precautions

- Treat all human blood and certain body fluids as if they are infectious
- Must be observed in all situations where there is a potential for contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials

Precautions You Can Take

- ❖ Wash hands and other body parts as soon as possible after exposure and upon removing gloves.
- ❖ Surfaces soiled with blood and body fluids should be disinfected.



Preventative Housekeeping

- ❖ Always wear gloves when cleaning areas contaminated with blood and body fluids.
- ❖ Be alert for sharp objects when emptying trash containers.
- ❖ Use a brush and dust pan, or tongs to pick up broken glassware.



Do Not Use Your Hands

- Place contaminated waste or cleaning materials in a sturdy, leak proof container and dispose according to policy.
- Don't clean blood or body fluids spills unless authorized.
- Block off area until area is cleaned.
- Single use gloves should be discarded after use.
- When removing gloves don't touch the outside surfaces.
- Wash hands after contact with blood or body fluids



Prevention Through Protective Barriers: When an accident happens on the job:

- Minor injuries- the person should try to stop the bleeding without help.
- If assistance is needed, use a barrier to avoid direct contact
- Use disposable gloves as a barrier
- If blood or body fluids get on skin, wash it off as soon as possible with non-abrasive soap and water
- Flush exposed eyes, nose or mouth immediately.
- If a major injury have co-worker call administrator and call 9-1-1

Continued.....



Prevention Through Protective Barriers: When an accident happens on the job: (continued)

- If CPR is needed, avoid unprotected mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
- Keep a pocket mask on hand for protection from child's fluids.
- After the incident, the area is hazardous until cleaned.
- Consider everyone a potential risk for exposure.



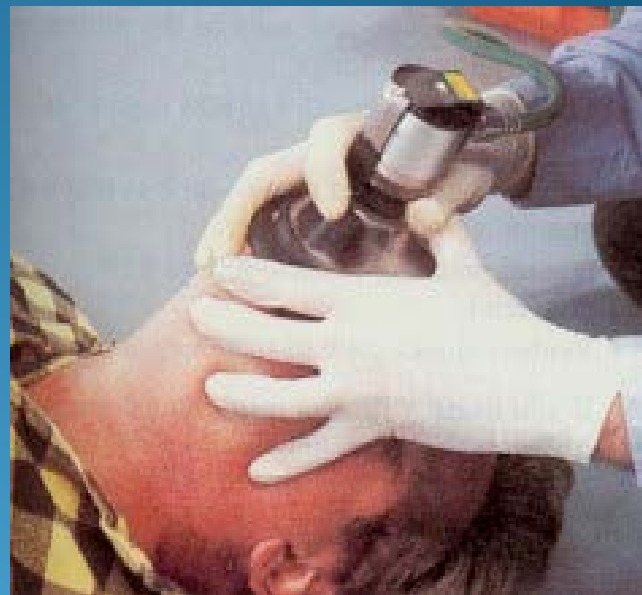
Remember!!

What to do if an exposure occurs?

- ❖ Wash exposed area with soap and water
- ❖ Flush splashes to nose, mouth, or skin with water
- ❖ Irrigate eyes with water or saline
- ❖ Report the exposure
- ❖ Direct the worker to a healthcare professional

Examples of PPE

- **Gloves**
- **Gowns**
- **Face shields**
- **Eye protection**
- **Mouthpieces and resuscitation devices**



Any Questions



For Further Information

Contact the Kankakee County Health Department at
(815)802-9400

or visit www.kankakeehealth.org

Other informational websites include:

www.cdc.gov

www.osha.gov