

Post Exposure Incidents

If you have been exposed to blood you may have been exposed to HIV, HVB or HCV.

An exposure incident means a specific eye, mouth or mucous membrane exposure, non intact skin or piercing the skin through needle sticks, bites, cuts, or abrasions through the performance of an employee's duties which allows the employee to come into contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials.

Immediately following an exposure incident:

- **WASH** needle sticks and cuts with soap and water
- **FLUSH** splashes to the nose, mouth or skin with water
- **IRRIGATE** eyes with clean water, or use bottled eye wash
- **STOP** the bleeding by applying sterile gauze
- **BANDAGE** your injury
- **REPORT** the incident to your supervisor immediately
- **FILL OUT** the Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Incident Forms.
- **SEEK** medical attention immediately

Exposure does not necessarily mean infection

If you experience an exposure incident, you have the right to:

1. Receive confidential post-exposure medical evaluation and follow up.
2. Free transportation to/from the HHC medical facility.
3. Seek medical attention within scheduled work hours.
4. Request the testing of the source individual.
5. Obtain a copy of the HHC's health care professional's written opinion within 15 days of the completion of the evaluation.

Summary of Bloodborne Pathogens Diseases

DISEASE	CAUSATIVE AGENT	INCUBATION PERIOD	SIGNS & SYMPTOMS	VACCINE AVAILABILITY
HIV/AIDS	HIV virus	2- 4 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compromises the immune system • Swollen lymph nodes, recurrent fevers, night sweats, fatigue, diarrhea, weight-loss, infections in the mouth • Opportunistic infections—TB, HBV, pneumonia, cancers 	NO
Hepatitis B	Hepatitis B virus (HBV)	2 – 6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causes inflammation of the liver • About 30% of persons show no signs or symptoms. • Jaundice, fatigue, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, joint pain, dark colored urine 	YES
Hepatitis C	Hepatitis C virus (HCV)	6 - 7 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causes inflammation of the liver • Can be asymptomatic for many years. • Jaundice, fatigue, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, joint pain, dark colored urine 	NO

Office of Occupational Safety and Health
65 Court Street, Room 706
Brooklyn, NY 11201
tel 718-935-2319
web www.schools.nyc.gov/offices/DHR/OSH



Joel Klein
Chancellor



Bloodborne Pathogens Standard Facts for At-Risk Employees

Bloodborne Pathogens Standard

29 CFR 1910.1030

September, 2009

This brochure is a general and introductory resource. It is not intended to supplant your initial and annual training by the NYCDOE

Bloodborne Pathogens

Bloodborne Pathogens are pathogenic micro-organisms that are present in human blood and can cause blood-borne diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B (HBV) and Hepatitis C (HCV), Syphilis and Malaria.

Bloodborne pathogens are spread when infected blood or other body fluids contaminated with blood gets into the bloodstream of an uninfected person. Examples include: bites, cuts or openings into the skin, puncture wounds from sharp objects, providing first aid, and splashes of contaminated fluids into the eyes, nose or mouth.

Regulation Summary

PURPOSE: To prevent the transmission of bloodborne pathogen diseases within potentially exposed workplace occupations.

LAW IN EFFECT: This law has been in effect since 1992.

WHO IS COVERED: All NYCDOE employees whose job tasks bring them into routine contact with blood and other potentially infectious materials.

WHAT IS REQUIRED: The NYCDOE is required to develop a written Exposure Control Plan; identify employees who are at risk; ensure that universal precautions are practiced; provide gloves, aprons and other protective equipment; provide prompt evaluation and treatment to workers who have a needle stick or other exposure to blood; provide Hepatitis B vaccinations to workers who are exposed to blood; train at-risk employees each year on bloodborne diseases, and adequately dispose of medical waste.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE: Principals must ensure that their schools comply with this regulation. The Site Employee Safety Administrator (SESA) has been appointed by the principal to coordinate compliance activities.

WHO ENFORCES THE LAW: The New York State Department of Labor, Public Employee Safety and Health Bureau (PESH). After inspection, fines may be levied for sites found not compliant.

High Risk Employees

Your principal/Site Employee Safety Administrator (SESA) has identified you as an employee whose job duties place you at occupational risk of exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials. All at-risk employees are required to receive specialized training on bloodborne pathogens and be offered the opportunity to receive the hepatitis B vaccine.

Should you become exposed to blood or other potentially infectious material, a post exposure plan is in place.

The incident will be documented and you will be released from work to seek immediate medical attention at a Health and Hospitals Corporation facility. For detailed information on handling exposure incidents, ask your SESA for a copy of the *Post Exposure Incidents Information Sheet for Employees*.

The Bloodborne Pathogens Compliance Tool

The NYCDOE has developed a database, The Bloodborne Pathogens Compliance Tool (BBPCT) which tracks the training and vaccination status of at risk employees. Once you have been identified as having occupational risk, the BBPCT will request that you sign up and complete a training session. Upon completion of the training, you will receive another email with an offer to receive the Hepatitis B vaccine. Should you accept, the vaccine is free and is offered during normal work hours.

Check your NYCDOE email frequently as these offers will be made via email

Smart Work Practices

1. **PRACTICE UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS** This is an assumption that all human blood and certain body fluids are infectious for bloodborne pathogens.
2. **WEAR GLOVES** Don't take chances - always wear gloves when you are involved in direct student care that involves contact with body fluids.
3. **WASH HANDS** Hand washing is the single most effective method for controlling the spread of infectious disease.
4. **NEVER USE YOUR HANDS TO PICK UP SHARP OBJECTS** like broken glass.
5. **DISPOSE** of medical waste properly.
6. **NEVER SMASH DOWN ON OVERFLOWING TRASH CANS** with your hands or feet
7. **DISINFECT** Follow procedures for cleaning up blood and infectious body fluids. Use diluted bleach or EPA approved disinfectants.
8. **CLEAN** change tables and adaptive equipment before and after use.
9. **COVER** all cuts, nicks, burns, acne sores, abrasions, and dermatitis.
10. **GET** the hepatitis B vaccine.
11. **REPORT** all needle sticks and exposures to blood and other potentially infectious materials.
12. **GET** The required training on bloodborne pathogens.