

Blood-borne Pathogens

Definition

Blood-borne Pathogens are bacteria and viruses present in blood and body fluids that can cause disease in humans. The most common examples of Blood-borne Pathogens (BBPs) are Hepatitis B (HBV), Hepatitis C (HCV) and HIV.

Transmission

Blood-borne pathogens are transmitted through direct contact, indirect contact, droplet transmission and vector-borne transmission.

- Direct contact occurs when infected blood or body fluids from one person enter another person's body at a correct entry site.
- Indirect contact occurs when a person touches an object that contains the blood or body fluid of an infected person, and that infected blood or body fluid enters the body at a correct entry site.
- Airborne transmission occurs when a person inhales droplets from an infected person's cough or sneeze.
- Vector-borne transmission occurs when the body's skin is penetrated by an infectious source.

Four conditions must be met for transmission:

- A pathogen is present.
- There is enough of the pathogen present to cause disease.
- A person is susceptible to the pathogen.
- The pathogen passes through the correct entry site.

Prevention

Transmission of blood-borne pathogens is preventable by following these standard precautions:

- Avoid contact with blood and other body fluids.
- Use personal protective equipment, such as disposable gloves and breathing barriers (i.e. face masks, etc.).
- Place sharps in proper containers.
- Clean and disinfect all possibly contaminated work surfaces.
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose while providing care or when exposure to infectious materials is possible.
- Avoid eating drinking, smoking, applying cosmetics or lip balm, or handling contact lenses while providing care or when exposure to infectious materials is possible.
- Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and warm water or other disinfectant products immediately after providing care, even if you are using disposable gloves.
- Use alcohol based rubs where hand washing facilities are not available.
- Remove/dispose of soiled protective clothing as soon as possible.
- Disposing of contaminated materials in appropriate containers.

Risk of Infection

In the event that you may have been infected with a blood-borne pathogen, contact Principal ???????? immediately, complete a blood borne pathogen incident report and seek medical treatment as soon as possible.

Medical Emergency

- If necessary, immediately call for emergency medical personnel.
- Secure the blood-borne pathogens kit located in school office.
- Cover cuts or skin abrasions on your hands with bandages prior to putting on gloves.
- Always protect yourself by putting on gloves prior to touching blood or body fluids of another person.
- When assisting someone who is bleeding, try to get the person to stop the bleeding by using direct pressure. Self-care is encouraged whenever possible to limit opportunities for exposure.

Glove Removal

When removing gloves:

- Carefully peel one glove from the top of the wrist to the fingertips without touching any bare skin, and then hold it in the gloved hand. With the exposed hand, peel the second glove off without touching any bare skin, tucking the first glove inside the second.
- Dispose of the used gloves red colored biohazard bag and never touch the outside of a glove with your bare skin.
- Wash your hands with non-abrasive soap & water. Dry thoroughly. Use of an alcohol-based sanitizer is acceptable only if hands are not visibly soiled. Non-abrasive soap and water is the best method for cleaning.

Blood and Body Fluid Clean-up

- Always wear gloves to protect your hands from contact exposure.
- If there are large amounts of blood, wear a smock and a face shield to protect your clothing.
- Use disposable materials, such as paper towels or absorbent powder to absorb blood.
- Use medical disinfectant.
- Use a broom & dustpan to clean sharp contaminated objects, such as glass.
- Dispose of all materials in red biohazard bag and place in biohazard waste bin located in bathroom adjacent to work room.

Contaminated Clothing

According to blood-borne pathogen law, students whose clothes become bloodied at school are not permitted to remain with their class because of the possibility of students coming into contact with potentially infected blood (HIV, HBV, and HCV). Parents may be called if there are no clothes available for them to change into. Bloodied clothes will be placed in a securely tied garbage bag and kept separate from other items.