SAFETY MESSAGE
Universal Blood and Body Fluid Precautions
Compiled By USDA-APHIS-CCEP

The following plan are the key elements, which can be used to control occupational exposures to bloodborne pathogens. All blood and body fluids must be considered as potentially infectious and personnel are to use appropriate protective measures to prevent exposure.

Responsibilities

A. All personnel must be responsible for their own and the safety of employees working with and around them.

B. It is the responsibility of the employer to provide a plan for bloodborne pathogens, training, post exposure follow up, as required by the standard, personal protective equipment necessary to avoid exposure, and a copy of the standard to affected employees. This shall be done in accordance with OSHA’s Bloodborne Pathogen Standard.

Exposure Categories-Low

Tasks that involve no exposure to blood or body fluids and are not a condition of employment.

The normal work routine involves no exposure to blood, body fluids, will not be called on to perform or assist in an emergency medical care, as a condition of employment, or be potentially exposed in some other way. All tasks would be voluntary.

Personnel Practices

Hand-washing:

Use of hand washing facilities is primary, if facilities are not feasible use of antiseptic cleaners and cloth/paper towelettes are used. When antiseptic hand cleansers or towelettes are used, hands shall be washed with soap and running water as soon as feasible.

- When hands become contaminated with blood or body fluids
- When gloves are removed
- Before going to lunch, breaks, or home

Contaminated Needles and Other Sharps:

- DO NOT recap, bend, or break used needles
- Discard needles and sharps in appropriately labeled “Sharps” containers
- Transport re-usable sharps in closable, leak-proof, puncture-resistant, labeled container
- Use mechanical device (forceps) to place contaminated broken glass into appropriate containers
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Personal Protective Equipment for Blood or Body Fluid Contact

- Gloves when touching blood or body fluids, mucous membranes, or non-intake skin of injured person
- Gloves when handling items or surfaces soiled with blood or body fluids
- Appropriate gowns or aprons when splashes or soiling of skin or clothing with blood or body fluids is likely; remove soiled clothing as soon as feasible
- Masks and goggles during procedures likely to generate splashes of blood or body fluids into the mouth, nose, or eye; example: for CPR, use an external mouth barrier

Environmental Controls

General Housekeeping:

- Maintain work area in clean and sanitary condition
- Decontaminate work surfaces when contaminated
- Remove and replace any protective work surface coverings when contaminated

Blood or Body Fluid Spills:

- Soak up spills with absorbent material (paper towels)
- Decontaminate area with appropriate disinfectant; example: bleach 1:10 ratio
- Allow disinfectant to pool onto spill area for at least 5-10 minutes
- Dispose of contaminated material appropriately; example: biohazard labeled container

Biomedical Wastes:

- Are to be disposed of according to State of Florida Regulations

Transport:

- Place container in a sealable labeled secondary container for transport

Exposures to blood or body fluids via broken skin or needle sticks or mucous membrane contact:

- Wash and flush affected area immediately, apply first aid
- Notify your supervisor as soon as possible
- Seek medical intervention

http://www.osha.gov/OshStd_data/1910_1030.html