

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**



**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES  
BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS**

Complied St. Brigid's Religious Ed program 1994  
Revised Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish 2013

# Blood borne Diseases

Blood borne pathogens are microorganisms carried by human blood and other body fluids. The two most common the hepatitis A, B (HBV), C and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)

Children are usually immunized against Hepatitis B

Many people think of AIDS when discussing blood borne pathogens, but actually HBV is much more common.

Unfortunately, children are as prone to blood borne diseases as adults. That means you are as much in danger of infection from the children you work with as any other group in society.

**IMMUNIZATIONS ARE NEVER 100%**



## HEPATITIS "B" HBV

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Hepatitis means "inflammation of the liver." Most people suffering from HBV will heal in approximately 6 months. But the virus can be life threatening -- leading to cirrhosis and almost certain death.

If you become infected with HBV

- You may suffer from flu like symptoms (fatigue, weight loss, fever or diarrhea)
- You may require hospitalization
- You may not exhibit any symptoms, being unaware that you are a carrier
- Your blood, saliva and other body fluids may be infected
- You may spread the virus to sexual partners, family members and even unborn infants

Blood tests can positively identify the disease

## HIV

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The human immunodeficiency virus attacks the body's immune system, causing the disease known as AIDS. *At present, there is no vaccine to prevent AIDS.*

If you contract HIV:

- You may suffer from flu-like symptoms (fever, diarrhea, fatigue, soar throat, flushed, rash)
- You may carry the virus without showing symptoms for several years
- You will eventually develop AIDS
- You may fall victim to AIDS-related illnesses including neurological problems, cancer and other opportunistic infections.

*HIV is transmitted mainly through sexual contact, but also may be spread by contact with blood and body fluids.* HIV is not transmitted by touching or working around people who carry the disease.

## **Workplace Transmission**

Knowing how these dreaded diseases are transmitted can be your first line of defense from infection. HBV, HIV and other pathogens may be present in blood and other materials, such as:

- Body fluids containing visible blood
- Semen and vaginal secretions
- Torn or loose skin.

Bloodborne pathogens can cause infection by entering your body through:

- Open cuts and nicks
- Skin abrasions
- Dermatitis
- Acne
- The mucous membranes of your mouth, eyes or nose.

Special-education employees should take extra caution while working with severely disabled children. Some disabled children may be more:

- Vulnerable to injury
- Likely to have special medical needs
- Dependent on adults for personal care.

## Accidental Injury

You can become infected by cutting yourself with a contaminated sharp object like:

- Broken glass
- Sharp metal
- Needles
- Knives
- Exposed ends of orthodontic wires.



## Indirect Transmission

Blood borne diseases can also be transmitted indirectly.

This happens when you touch a contaminated object or surface and then transfer the infection to your:

- Mouth
- Eyes
- Nose
- Non-intact skin.

Sound unlikely?

*Not when you consider HBV can survive on surfaces dried and at room temperature for at least a week.*

*Contaminated surfaces are a major factor in the spread of HBV.*

## REDUCING YOUR RISK

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Reducing your risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens means you need to do more than wear gloves.

To protect yourself effectively use:

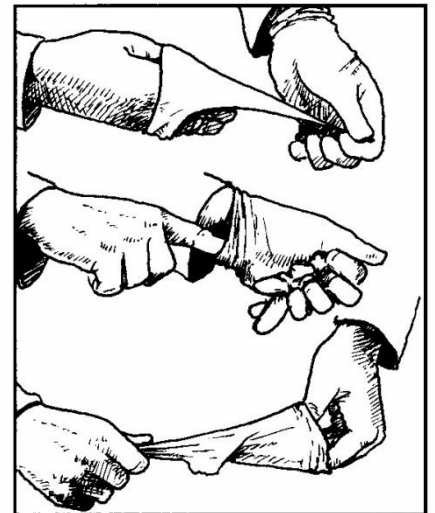
### ■ Handwashing

- Minimize splashing, spraying, spattering and generation of droplets when attending to an injured student when blood is present. Go to the

student with tissue and gloves on -- Don't have the student walk toward you, to the other side of the room to get a tissue, etc. There will be a trail of blood to clean up

■ Use of gloves -- good rule, when there is blood, put on the gloves

- As important as wearing gloves, you are not protected unless you remove them correctly.
- With both hands gloved, peel one glove off from top to bottom and hold it in the gloved hand.
- With the exposed hand, peel the second glove from the inside, tucking the first glove inside the second
- Dispose of the gloves promptly
- Never touch the outside of the glove with bare skin
- Every time you remove your gloves wash your hands with soap and running water as soon as possible
- Decontaminate -- use a solution of Clorox to clean area [ ¼ cup of bleach to 1 gallon of water ]
- Place tissues, gloves, etc into a plastic bag and seal
- For vomit, check with the Maintenance man ... use ...



■ Droplets from a sneeze spread out 50 feet. Teach students to cough or sneeze in their elbow. If a student has URI encourage them to wash their hands and cough in their elbow.

■ Food allergies have become a huge issue over the past 5 years.

## **Assume you are at risk when there is blood present!**

Due to the privacy acts you cannot know or find out if the person is infected. Therefore, always use universal health precautions

- ✓ Hand washing: soap and water.
- ✓ Gloves
- ✓ Use of tissues -- only use things that can be discarded
- ✓ Plastic bags -- place tissues, used gloves, etc. Into the plastic bags and seal

**HAND SANTIZER is toxic to young children** and should be monitored – i.e. given out by an adult and if used, soap and water are best when possible

## **Situations of where blood will be present:**

### Nosebleeds

Children get nosebleeds for no reason at all

Bring them tissues

They should look down and pinch their nose for about 5 minutes. If there is a lot of blood continue to pinch until it stops – check every 5 minutes. If child puts head back you run the risk of a clot in their throat causing a possible choking situation to result

When removing the tissue, realize that the cloth will come out as well. Have another tissue ready

### Pull out a tooth

Little ones may play with a loose tooth. If they pull it out before it is time, it will bleed like a gusher – may need to bite on a piece of gauze for a few minutes – then gently rinse mouth out with water.

### Bug bite

Children may pull off the scab and cause a bite to bleed – wash area with soap and water. Apply band aid

### Altercation

Paper cut

Biting

If skin is broken, parents should be notified. Wash area with soap and water. They in turn should check with their doctor.

## **FIRST AID**

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- soap and water
- Band-Aids
- Vaseline in needed

**It is Illegal in New York State** to apply any other types of creams or ointments including antibiotic cream / ointment.

## **MEDICAL FORM – should contain the following information:**

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- Recent surgery or serious injury such as fractures
- Chronic medical condition
- Allergies
- Medications that they are presently taking

## **AED**

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- only for students large enough
- Should know if a student is taking any medication and/or has any allergies / health issues

## **Other Notes**

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- ⇒ When going on a field trip, a first aid kit should always be brought along
- ⇒ When cleaning up blood, use a Clorox solution of 1 part bleach to 10 parts water – wear gloves.
- ⇒ If you have been exposed, there is a post exposure shot which can be given in a hospital emergency room. It must be procured within 36 hours of exposure
- ⇒ Need to know where the supplies are located, to have tissues / plastic bags, etc. on hand