

Bloodborne Pathogens



FAQ

Q: Who is covered under the Federal Bloodborne Pathogen Standard?

A: You are covered by this Standard if your employer has "reasonably anticipated" that you will be exposed to blood or other infectious materials as a result of your actual or anticipated job tasks.

Q. How do I know if I am covered under the standard?

A. Speak with your supervisor or one of the District contact people.

Q. What is meant by "universal precautions?"

A. Treating all human blood and certain human body fluids as infectious. This includes proper handwashing as well as using appropriate personal protective equipment when dealing with a potential exposure situation.

Q. Who should I contact if I have questions?

A. In an emergency, call 911 or contact Glen Haupt, Wendy Schooley, or Tom Helgestad.

Q. What happens if I am involved in an exposure incident?

A. The District will provide necessary medical attention.

Q. What is HBV?

A. HBV is an abbreviation for Hepatitis B Virus, a form of Hepatitis that has serious medical consequences.

Q. What is HIV?

A. HIV is an abbreviation for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. Persons with HIV may develop AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

Contact Information

In case of emergency..... Phone 911

Bloodborne Pathogen Contact Person(s):

Glen Haupt
Dir. of Pupil Services
715-424-6724
Central Office

Wendy Schooley
School Nurse
715-424-6730 Ext. 3109
Wisconsin Rapids Junior High

Tom Helgestad
Dir. Buildings & Grounds
715-424-6718 Ext. 1102
Central Storage

For additional information on Bloodborne Pathogens, please contact your supervisor or the above listed individuals.

THE LAW & YOUR RIGHTS

The Federal Bloodborne Pathogen Standard became effective March 6, 1992. The intent of this law is to minimize, reduce or eliminate occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens. It is the responsibility of the School District to determine which employees will be covered under this Standard. This is done by assessing job tasks and activities for each job classification in the District. You are covered by this Standard if your employer has "reasonably anticipated" that you will be exposed to blood or other infectious materials as a result of your actual or anticipated job tasks. Your rights as an employee include access to information regarding health risks in dealing with components of bloodborne pathogens. Your employer is required to evaluate occupational exposure based on job descriptions and duties, and provide work practices and means of protection including information to reduce the potential exposure. You should have received information and training when you were initially hired, or refresher courses which are required annually.

The law requires:

- an accessible "Exposure Control Plan" for employees
- engineering and work practice controls
- training and information
- cleaning procedures
- provision of Hepatitis B vaccination
- post-exposure follow-up
- implementation and use of Universal Precautions
- recordkeeping.

ENGINEERING & WORK CONTROLS

Universal Precautions (treating all human blood and certain human body fluids as infectious) will be used when dealing with blood and other potentially infectious materials.

Your employer will provide you with adequate hand washing facilities or appropriate antiseptic hand cleanser, towels, or towelettes. Hand washing is one of the most important steps in infectious control.

Proper hand washing procedures include:

- Use of water
- Wetting hands and wrists
- Applying liquid (nonabrasive) soap to palms first and lathering well
- Spreading lather to hands and wrists
- Scrubbing, paying close attention to fingernails and between fingers (scrubbing time a minimum of 15 seconds) and rinsing well
- Drying hands completely to prevent chapping
- Turning faucet off utilizing disposable towels (if available)

If you handle needles or other sharps (broken glass, etc.) which may become contaminated, your employer will provide you with a sharps disposal container that fulfills the requirements set forth by law.

You will be provided with proper cleaners and disinfectant to be used when a blood or body fluid spill occurs.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Persons qualifying under this Standard will have access to Personal Protective Equipment which includes, but is not limited to:

Gloves--In a school setting, gloves would be the most often used PPE. Gloves should be used prior to contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM), checked for proper fit, checked for punctures, pulled snug to ensure good fit, rolled or pulled off from wrist to fingers after use (inside out), and disposed of in a proper container. Be sure to wash hands before and after glove use.

Gowns and Other Protective Body Clothing

Gowns and other protective body clothing shall be worn in occupational exposure situations and will depend upon the task and degree of exposure anticipated.

Masks and Eye Protection

Masks and eye protection shall used in combination whenever splashes, spray or spatter of OPIM maybe generated and eye, nose or mouth contamination can be reasonably anticipated.

Resuscitation Bags/Mouthpieces

If required, these will be provided by the employer at no cost to you. They will also be repaired, replaced, cleaned, laundered, and disposed of.

Vaccination

The Hepatitis B vaccination will be made available at no cost to you, and will be offered within 10 working days of training and initial job assignment. You will not be required to have a prescreening as a condition of the vaccination.

Post-Exposure Procedure

In case of an exposure incident, you will be provided with testing and a confidential post-exposure medical evaluation. At this time, the Hepatitis B vaccination will be offered if you have not already had the series. These tests and evaluations are also at no cost to you.

Communication of Hazards

You will be introduced to the biohazard labels and other types of warnings used within your school district in regard to bloodborne pathogens.

WHAT IS HBV?

Hepatitis B is a disease caused by the Hepatitis B Virus (HBV). It causes an inflammation of the liver and can have long-term effects on the infected person.

Modes of Transmission

Transmitted by sexual contact, shared needles, mother to infant, and contact with blood or other infectious material. Hepatitis B has a potential for transmission that is much greater than that for HIV due to the greater concentration of the virus in the blood.

Symptoms

Symptoms develop between six weeks and six months after exposure. The symptoms include fatigue, nausea, abdominal discomfort, loss of appetite and weight, vomiting, jaundice, and mild fever. Some people may not develop any symptoms and won't know that they are infected. Blood tests are the only positive way to tell. Some people (six to ten percent) are infected for life and are considered chronic carriers.

Prevention

HBV vaccination--safe and effective (80 to 95 percent effective). The vaccine is recommended for healthcare workers and others who have significant occupational exposure and is provided at no charge to the covered employee.

Treatment

Post-Exposure HBV Vaccination - 70-88 percent effective when given within one week of HBV exposure. When combined with HBIG (Hepatitis B Immune Globulin), the treatment is 90 percent effective in preventing Hepatitis

B. If the disease is not prevented, there is no treatment, and it will run its course. Recovery may take several months.

WHAT IS HIV?

HIV is a virus that attacks the immune system. It can cause Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) which suppresses the immune system.

Modes of Transmission

Sexual contact, blood exposure (including sharing of contaminated needles), and mother to infant.

Symptoms

Various infections, weight loss, tiredness, fever, and swollen glands.

Prevention

The HIV virus is readily neutralized by common disinfection techniques and does not carry a substantial risk for casual contact: only sexual exposure and exposure to blood or blood products carry a risk.

Treatment

The FDA has approved AZT, a drug that prolongs the life of some AIDS patients. It is not a cure, and has not worked for everyone. There is no vaccine available for immunization purposes.

At-Risk Groups

Intravenous drug users, sexual partners of infected persons and recipients of blood transfusions are at elevated risk. Strict surveillance of blood donations makes transfusion risk very small.

Further Information

Control of Communicable Disease in Man, Abram S. Benenson, APRA
National AIDS Hotline: 1-800-342-AIDS

POST-EXPOSURE EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP PROTOCOL

In the event of an exposure to blood, i.e., contact with mucous membranes, non-intact skin, or piercing the skin by needle stick, bite, etc., it is imperative that you follow the appropriate protocol. Time is of the essence to provide the most comprehensive and protective treatment.

The Bloodborne Pathogen Contact Person will refer the exposed individual to a clinic or the employee may go to the healthcare professional of their choice.

The School District is responsible for providing a confidential medical evaluation and follow-up after an exposure incident has been reported.

The exposed employee should utilize the following protocol:

1. Immediately wash exposed skin area with germicidal soap or flush mucous membrane with running water.
2. Contact your supervisor and/or the Bloodborne Pathogen Contact Person(s).

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Amniotic Fluid

The fluid surrounding the fetus during pregnancy.

Blood

Human blood, human blood components and products made from human blood.

Bloodborne Pathogens

Pathogenic micro-organisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

Cerebral Spinal Fluid

The fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord.

Contaminated

The presence or the reasonably anticipated presence of blood or other potentially infectious materials on an item or surface.

Contaminated Sharps

Any contaminated object that can penetrate the skin including, but not limited to, needles, scalpels, and broken glass.

Contaminated Laundry

Laundry which has been soiled with blood or other potentially infectious materials, or which may contain sharps.

Decontamination

The use of physical or chemical means to remove, inactivate, or destroy bloodborne pathogens on a surface.

Engineering Controls

Controls, i.e., sharps disposal containers, self-sheathing needles, etc., that isolate or remove the bloodborne pathogens hazard from the workplace.

Exposure Incident

A specific eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, non-intact skin or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that result from the performance of an employee's duties.

Hand washing Facilities

A facility providing an adequate supply of running potable water, soap, and single use towels or hot air drying machines.

HBV

Hepatitis B Virus.

HIV

Human immunodeficiency Virus.

Occupational Exposure

Reasonably anticipated skin, eye, mucous membrane or other parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from the performance and duties of an employee.

Pericardial Fluid

The fluid surrounding the heart.

Peritoneal Fluid

The fluid surrounding the abdominal cavity.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Specialized clothing or equipment worn by an employee for protection against a hazard. Gloves, goggles, and aprons are some examples.

Pleural Fluid

The fluid surrounding the lungs.

Regulated Waste

Contaminated items that would release blood or other potentially infectious materials in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed.

Serous Fluid

Liquids of the body, similar to blood serum, which are in part secreted by serous membranes.

Source Individual

Any individual, living or dead, whose blood or other potentially infectious materials may be a source of occupation at exposure to an employee.

Synovial Fluid

The fluid secreted in surrounding membrane of the joints.

Universal Precautions

Work practices that assist in the prevention of contact with blood and other body fluids. They are the best protection against HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, Hepatitis B and other infectious agents.

Work Practice Controls

Controls that reduce the likelihood of exposure by altering the manner in which a task is performed, i.e., prohibiting recapping of needles by a two-handed technique.

523.21 EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONALLY EXPOSED TO BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

The School District of Wisconsin Rapids shall strive to safeguard the health and well-being of district employees and promote a safe work environment. As required by law, an exposure control plan shall be developed and adopted for use in the district. The plan shall be designed to reduce an employee's exposure to the hepatitis B virus (HBV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and other bloodborne pathogens in the workplace.

It is the district's full intention that, if necessary, the physical facility, work practices and other areas will be modified to attain the plan's goal. In addition, employees will be informed and trained so that they, too, can contribute to the reduction and elimination of exposure.

To ensure that the exposure control plan is kept up to date, it will be reviewed and amended annually, and whenever tasks are implemented which may affect occupational exposure.

LEGAL REF.: Sections 101.055
Wisconsin Statutes 252.15
COMM 32, Wisconsin Administrative Code
29 CFR 1910.1030

CROSS REF.: Bloodborne Pathogens Procedures

APPROVED: January 14, 2002