

Short Summary of
Universal Precautions & Bloodborne Pathogens
for New Employees

Universal Precautions:

Universal precautions are hygiene procedures used for blood and body fluids. All blood/body fluid is to be treated as contaminated regardless of its source and contact should be avoided. Barriers such as gloves are to be used to reduce the risk of transmission of bloodborne pathogens. Each employee should obtain a Universal Precautions kit containing disposable gloves from their nurse to have available in case of a need.

The following Universal Precautions procedures should be followed:

1. Encourage the injured person to attend to his/her injuries as much as possible providing paper towels, tissues, etc. if practicable.
2. If contact with blood/body fluids is unavoidable, put on the disposable latex or vinyl gloves BEFORE coming into contact with blood/body fluids.
3. Place any blood stained items into a plastic bag or trash cans with bags.
4. Remove gloves carefully, turning them inside out during removal, and place in a plastic bag.
5. Seal plastic bag and discard appropriately.
6. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.
7. Contact the custodial staff for cleaning & disinfecting all soiled surfaces.
8. Contact school nurse as soon as possible if an incident of Exposure (possible blood to blood transfusion) has occurred.

Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens:

The Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) promulgated the Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens Standard, 29 CFR 1910.1030. The objective of this regulation is to reduce exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) in the workplace since exposure could result in the transmission of bloodborne pathogens. Essential for the implementation of the provisions of the standard is the use of Universal Precautions and the procedures put in place in the school district's Exposure Control Plan. This plan is in both the principal and nurse's offices in each building.

Bloodborne Pathogens are microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These include Hepatitis B and HIV, human immunodeficiency virus. Hepatitis B affects the liver and HIV the immune system. Some people with Hepatitis B have no symptoms, some may have severe symptoms, and in rare cases death may result.

HIV damages the body's immune system, which normally protects the body from disease. HIV is a disease with many stages. AIDS is the stage when an HIV-infected person's immune system gets very weak.

Both of these diseases can be transmitted when the blood, semen, vaginal fluid or breast milk from an infected person enters the blood of another person through an open wound, abraded skin, or mucous membranes. This would be an Incident of Exposure and should be followed up by a medical evaluation. Transmission occurs primarily from IV drug users sharing needles and from unprotected sexual contact. In the school setting, the potential for exposure probably occurs most often when a staff member is responding to an injury.

For known exposure to infected blood/body fluids, the transmission rate of HIV is less than 1%. For Hepatitis B, the transmission rate is in the range of 30%. To further reduce the risk of transmission, Universal Precautions are used and are based on the premise that all blood/body fluids are potentially infectious.

Further information on this standard, Universal Precautions, and Bloodborne Pathogens are given during the annual Hazard Communications/ Right to Know workshops. Additional training on the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard is given to those employees at Occupational Risk (routine exposure to blood/body fluids as part of performing job duties) and to others who wish additional information. You can sign up for the specialized Bloodborne Pathogens training by filling out this form and returning it to:

**South Colonie Central School District
Human Resources
102 Loralee Drive
Albany, New York 12205**

I would like further Bloodborne Pathogens Training.

Name: _____

Position: _____

Building: _____