

Bloodborne Pathogen Training

**For Employees of the
Randolph County School System**

Introduction

As sure as the sun comes up every day, children end up with scraped knees, cuts and bruises. Students of all ages hurt themselves on the playground, in the classroom and on the playing field. As a professional in our school system, you need to be aware of **the potential danger of bloodborne pathogens.**



* In an educational setting, the school system is required to identify the personnel whose job duties expose them to blood and potentially infectious body fluids. Not every RCSS employee has a risk of being exposed to bloodborne pathogens while performing his/her job. **However**, it is important for everyone in an educational setting to understand the dangers of infection and the safety procedures to minimize risk.



The Facts

- * The 3 deadliest bloodborne diseases are:
 - * Hepatitis B
 - * Hepatitis C
 - * HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)
- * These 3 diseases pose the greatest risk **to you on the job.**
- * Hepatitis B and HIV are the 2 most common diseases carried by blood.

The Facts

- * Research shows that proper **safety precautions** greatly reduce the risk of coming in contact with one of these 3 viruses.
- * **To reduce your risk:**
 - * **Handle all** blood and body fluids as if they are infected.
 - * Dispose of sharps (needles) safely and in proper containers
 - * Use sharp safety devices
 - * Do not recap needles



Hepatitis B

- * Hepatitis B is a serious liver disease.
 - * Most people infected with it recover, but 10% become chronically infected.
- * There is no cure.
- * Hepatitis B poses a greater risk than Hepatitis C and HIV because it is more easily transmitted.
- * **It can be prevented** by taking the Hepatitis B vaccine and taking the correct safety precautions.

Hepatitis B and C

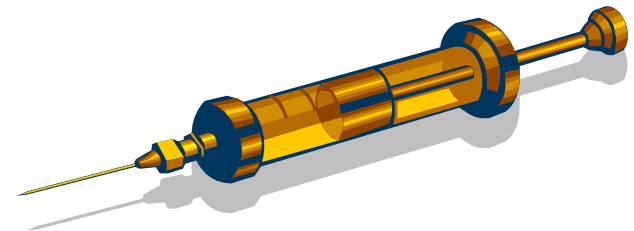
- * People infected with Hepatitis B and C may not have any symptoms of the disease, however, the infection slowly damages the liver.
- * Half ($1/2$) of the people infected with Hepatitis B and $3/4$ infected with Hepatitis C have no symptoms.
- * There is no preventative vaccine for Hepatitis C.

HIV

- * HIV attacks the human immune system and causes it to break down.
- * There is no preventative vaccine for HIV

Transmission

- * Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV are most **easily transmitted** by a person coming in contact with blood.
- * Though it is less likely, they can also be contracted through other body fluids
- * Treat all body fluids as potentially infectious



Transmission

- * Bloodborne viruses are not easily transmitted in the work place but when they are it is usually by:
 - * A contaminated sharp puncturing the skin
 - * Contaminated blood splashes onto broken skin or the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose or mouth

Transmission

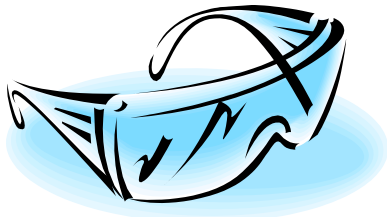
- * The keys to preventing infection are:
 - * **Understanding** the dangers you face
 - * Knowing **how** to protect yourself
- * Universal precautions
 - * You need to consider that **every person, all blood, and most body fluids** are potential carriers of infectious disease.

Safety Guidelines

- * Follow OSHA guidelines
- * OSHA recommends receiving the immunizations for Hepatitis B.
- * Remember there are no vaccines for Hepatitis C and HIV, so it is important to follow all safety precautions.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- * The type of personal protective equipment appropriate for your job varies with the task and the degree of exposure you encounter.



PPE

- * Equipment that protects you from contact with blood or other potential infected materials include:
 - * Gloves
 - * Gowns, aprons, lab coats
 - * Face shields, protective eye ware
 - * Masks, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags

PPE Guidelines

- * The PPE must fit properly, especially gloves
- * All PPE must be free of physical flaws that could compromise safety
- * You must use the correct PPE each time you perform a task involving other potential infectious materials.



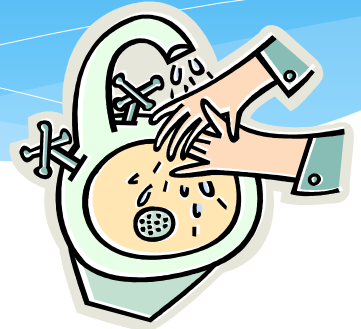
Standard Precautions

- * **Treat all** blood and body fluids, excretions and secretions (except sweat), non-intact skin and mucous membranes as though they are infected with bloodborne viruses or other pathogens.
- * **Proper hand washing is the #1 protection against infection**



Hand Washing

- * Wash hands after any contact with blood, body fluids, excretion and secretions **even if you are wearing gloves.**



- * Hand washing steps:
 - * Use soap and warm running water for 10-15 seconds
 - * Rub strongly over all surfaces, including above the wrists
 - * Rinse thoroughly and dry with a clean paper towel; discard towel
 - * Use a clean paper towel to turn off the faucet

What to do if exposed

- * **Immediately wash the skin area with soap and water**
- * If blood or other potential infectious material comes in contact with your eyes, immediately flush them with large amounts of clean, running water (eye wash station if one exists)
- * Do not use agents such as bleach
- * Report the incident

Stay Safe

Your best tool to prevent infection is to follow proper safety practices.