

First Aid - Infection Control

Purpose

The district has developed the following procedures as precautionary measures against the transmission of diseases. They are prudent actions to be taken by all members of the school environment but focus primarily on steps that employees can take to ensure their well-being. Those who give first aid and provide physical care to persons who may otherwise incur occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials as determined by the district, will be specifically protected through the district's Exposure Control Plan.

Background

Health services information about the transmission of diseases focuses on "body fluids" as a possible carrier of organisms that can infect others. The term includes drainage from cuts and scrapes, vomit with blood, urine,, respiratory secretion (nasal discharge), saliva, breast milk, tears, sweat, vaginal secretions, semen, and blood. While any contact with body fluids of another person represents a risk, the risk is increased if the fluid comes in contact with a mucus membrane (eyes, nose, mouth) or a break in the skin of the caregiver. Generally, universal precautions minimize risk.

Specific Recommendations

1. Universal precautions are to be followed at all times. Universal precautions require the assumption that staff and students approach infection control as if all direct contact with human blood and body fluids is known to be infectious for HIV, HBV and/or other bloodborne pathogens;
2. Whenever possible, students should be directed to care for their own minor bleeding injury. This includes encouraging students to apply their own bandaids. If assistance is required, the staff member should wear gloves to clean the area and apply band-aids;
3. All health room wastebaskets shall be lined with a plastic bag liner that is changed daily. A hazardous waste container should also be in each room and changed daily.
4. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved gloves are required for all tasks in which an individual may come into contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials. Such tasks include cleaning body fluid spills, emptying trash cans, handling sharps/containers, handling contaminated broken glass, cleaning contaminated equipment and handling contaminated laundry/clothing. This also includes assisting with any minor wound care, treating bloody noses, handling clothes soiled by incontinence, diaper changing and cleaning up vomit;

5. After providing care and removing gloves, immediate, complete and effective hand washing with soap and running water for at least 20 seconds duration should follow any first aid or health care given a student or contact with potentially infectious materials;
6. If exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials occurs through coughing, any first-aid procedure, or through an open sore or break in the skin, thorough washing, preferably with germicidal soap, is necessary;
7. In the event hand-washing facilities are not readily available, thorough cleaning using an antiseptic cleanser and clean cloth/paper towels or antiseptic towelettes provided by the district as an alternative is necessary. In the event alternatives are used, hands must be washed with soap and running water as soon as feasible. Follow work exposure plan.
8. Contaminated work surfaces shall be decontaminated with an appropriate disinfectant after completion of procedures; immediately or as soon as feasible when surfaces are overtly contaminated or after any spill of blood or other potentially infectious materials; and at the end of the work shift if the surface may have become contaminated since the last cleaning. Clean surfaces with soap and water and then rinse with an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved disinfectant¹ following labeling instructions for use, or a freshly made solution of one part chlorine bleach to 10 parts water made fresh daily or a similar disinfectant and allow to air dry. These surfaces include equipment, counters, toys, mats (including those used in physical education and athletic events) changing tables, etc.;
9. An EPA-approved disinfectant must be used when cleaning vomit or other body fluids from the floor;
10. Contaminated clothing can be rinsed with soap and water and the disinfectant solution. When possible, clothing should be changed. Soiled clothing shall be placed in bags in accordance with district's standard precautions. A student may return to class after the gross contamination has been cleaned. Gloves are to be worn when sorting or cleaning clothing;
11. Contaminated laundry is to be sealed in a plastic bag that is clearly marked as to content. While standard laundry procedures are adequate to kill any live virus, laundry personnel need to be alerted that the items should not be handled with the bare hands;
12. Needles, syringes, broken glassware and other sharp objects found on district property must not be picked up by students at any time, nor by staff without appropriate personal protective equipment or a mechanical device such as a broom, brush and dust pan. Any such items found must be disposed of in closable puncture resistant, leak-proof containers that are appropriately labeled or color-coded as hazardous waste;

¹Disinfectants which can be used include Lysol, Purex, Clorox, Tough Act bathroom cleaner, Dow bathroom cleaner, Real Pine liquid cleaner, Pine Sol, Spic and Span, Tackle liquid, Comet and other products with EPA numbers. Other disinfectants as recommended by the Center for Disease Control may be used.

13. Personal protective equipment (gloves, masks, eye protection, face shields, apron, gown) are required for tasks in which exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials can be reasonably anticipated to contaminate street clothing. Type and characteristics of such protective clothing will depend on the task. Such tasks may include diapering/toileting with gross contamination, assisting with wound care, sorting or bagging contaminated laundry/clothing and disposing of regulated waste with gross contamination.

General Recommendations

1. Soap dispensers should be installed in all restrooms and in areas where health services are provided and warm water available to make handwashing more effective.
2. Classroom sinks need to have a liquid soap dispenser and warm water.
3. Good handwashing techniques and cough and sneeze etiquette should be taught and time given for handwashing before students go to lunch.
4. Classroom wastebaskets should have plastic liners. The custodian must use disposable gloves and observe special procedures in emptying the wastebaskets.
5. Sharing of personal toilet articles, such as toothbrushes and razors, should not be permitted;
6. Skin lesions that may ooze blood or serum should be kept covered with a dressing;
7. Exchange of saliva by kissing on the mouth, by sharing items that have been mouthed and by putting fingers in others' mouths should be discouraged.