

SUBJECT:	Infectious Disease Prevention	
DEPARTMENT:		ISSUED BY:
ISSUE DATE:	October 31, 2014	REVISION DATE:

POLICY:

As protection to employees against the transmission of infectious disease via bodily fluids, all employees must use universal precautions when coming in contact with any bodily fluid of another person (e.g.: blood, lymph, saliva, urine, vomit, feces).

Exposure is most likely to occur when assisting an ill or injured person, or from failure to wash hands that touch surfaces that are contaminated. Strict adherence to universal precautions prevents exposure to blood borne pathogens and prevents exposure to such serious infectious diseases as Hepatitis, AIDS, and Tuberculosis. It also helps prevent exposure to diseases caused by other viruses – particularly the flu virus.

Nasal secretions, saliva, sputum, sweat, tears, urine, vomit, and feces, are not implicated in the transmission of HIV unless they contain visible blood. Casual contact between infected and uninfected individuals does not transmit HIV.

A risk of HIV contamination or other infectious disease contamination exists when there is exposure to blood or bodily fluids containing blood. That is a primary reason why gloves, goggles, and gowns are part of the infectious disease control safety program. Gloves, goggles, and gowns must be kept in every first aid kit and replaced when used.

PROCEDURE:

In the event an employee (or a customer) is injured or becomes ill in your workplace, there is a danger of contact with bodily fluids. This may in the form of blood, saliva, vomit, etc. Extreme care should be taken to prevent any contact with these fluids. DO NOT over react.

All employees must adhere to the following universal precautions:

- Wear latex gloves when coming into contact with blood, skin and mucous membrane cuts, or any open skin lesion.
- Use gloves only for the care of one person, then discard the gloves in a hazard container.
- Wash hands thoroughly after discarding the gloves with anti-bacterial soap.
- Properly dispose of contaminated materials exposed to blood, such as needles, in a hazard box or bag (the red container marked HAZARD).
- Clean any hard surface contaminated by any bodily fluids with 1:10 household bleach to kill the virus. (One part bleach and ten parts water)

Always wear personal protective equipment (PPE) when exposed to body fluids that may come into contact with your clothing, skin, eyes, mouth, or other mucous membranes. PPEs are made of materials that prevent penetration of potentially infectious organisms. These include gloves, gowns, and goggles. Learn where they are located in your workplace.

If gloves are not readily available, the use of a barrier--such as a towel with a piece of plastic (heavy plastic)--between the employee and any blood/fluids could be used with extreme care, until appropriate materials are available. If an employee is conscious, he/she should hold the towel or gauze over the bleeding area without assistance. Hands should be washed thoroughly and immediately with antibiotic soap and hand sanitizer applied.

Disposable needles and syringes should be placed into puncture-resistant containers near the areas in which they were used (Red biohazard box). No attempt should be made to recap, bend, or manipulate used needles since these activities increase the risk of needle stick injuries. Clothing and other items that may have come in contact with blood should be isolated and disinfected or disposed of as medical waste. Learn the location of the proper place to dispose of any contaminated materials through (*list name of safety officer or person named to handle contaminated materials*).

All materials known to pose a risk of hepatitis or other infectious diseases must be labeled "Biohazard." Fluorescent orange-red warning labels must be affixed to any container used to store, transport or ship blood or other potential contaminants.

Seek the assistance of the _____ when you have questions.

***Frequent hand washing prevents the spread of disease
Use hand sanitizer often***