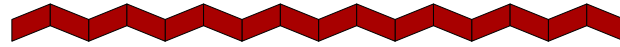




BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS



Safety & Security Fact Sheet

✓ **WHAT ARE BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS?**

Bloodborne pathogens (BBP) are disease-causing organisms that are found in the blood of infected persons. Examples of bloodborne pathogens are the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS and the hepatitis B virus (HBV) that can damage your liver.

✓ **WHY DO I NEED TO WORRY ABOUT EXPOSURE TO THESE ORGANISMS IN A SCHOOL SETTING?**

While these organisms are normally transmitted through sexual contact or injected drug use, the risk of infection is always possible when blood is present. However, exposure is not simple contact with blood. An exposure is a specific eye, mouth, or other mucous membrane; non-intact skin; or parenteral (piercing) contact with blood.

✓ **WHAT IS THE EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN?**

The exposure control plan identifies those employees who are at greater-than-average risk and eligible to be vaccinated against HBV. The plan also describes the universal hygiene procedures all employees must follow to protect themselves from infection and describes what procedures an employee must follow if an exposure to blood has occurred. The universal hygiene procedures handbook is available online at fcpsnet.fcps.edu/ssse/centralreg/universalHqn.htm.

✓ **WHAT ARE UNIVERSAL HYGIENE PROCEDURES?**

Universal hygiene procedures are work practices that reduce the likelihood of contact with blood. The procedures are the subject of the video "It's Up To You," that is available at each work location. The video (#27879) may be borrowed from the Multimedia Service Center at Chapel Square by calling 703-503-7495, or may be purchased at the cost of \$8.50 each by completing an INV-10 form requesting video duplication #11647.

✓ **WHO IS CONSIDERED TO BE AT GREATER-THAN-AVERAGE RISK?**

Generally, any employee who performs first aid as a primary job duty or cares for students with special health needs is considered to be at greater-than-average risk.

✓ **WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING I CAN DO TO PROTECT MYSELF FROM INFECTION?**

Assume that all blood is infected with BBP. Avoid contact with blood or other potentially infectious body fluids through awareness and the practice of universal precautions, particularly thorough and frequent hand washing.

✓ **WHO IS LIKELY TO BE INFECTED, AND DON'T I HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW WHO THE INFECTED PERSON IS?**

Anyone may be infected with BBP. Symptoms are not always apparent. An infected person's right to privacy supersedes your right to know. The status of an infected individual may be divulged to employees on a need-to-know basis as determined by extraordinary circumstances related to the individual.

✓ **WHAT MUST I DO IF I AM EXPOSED TO BLOOD?**

Know what an exposure is. Report the exposure to your supervisor and notify the Office of Safety and Security by calling 703-658-3770. Complete the postexposure report form attached to Regulation 7355 (most recent version), available online at www.fcps.k12.va.us/Directives/r7355.pdf. Seek medical treatment from an FCPS-approved health care provider within 24 hours of the blood exposure. See Regulation 4720 (most recent version) as amended.

For more information, visit our web site, www.fcps.edu/fts/safety-security/factsheets/seh-4.pdf
If you need assistance, call the safety section at 703-658-3770.