

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

(Your organization's name) shall limit employee exposure to bloodborne pathogens to the maximum extent feasible. The AIDS epidemic has created much concern in our society regarding exposure to human blood and body fluids. Besides HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), the virus that causes AIDS, there is also concern about hepatitis. Both diseases can be transmitted by a puncture wound from a sharp object contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious body fluid from an infected individual. Any employee who is "reasonably anticipated" to have skin, eye, or mucous membrane contact with blood from the performance of his/her duties is covered by the OSHA standard.

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS

All potentially infectious materials shall be considered infectious and precautions shall be observed to prevent contact. The following human body fluids are considered potentially infectious: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, amniotic fluid, body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood, and all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids. Any tissue or organ from a human is also potentially infectious. Urine, feces, saliva, sweat, and tears are not considered infectious unless there is visible blood.

WORK PRACTICES

Employees shall wash hands and any other skin with soap and water or flush mucous membranes with water immediately or when feasible following contact of such body areas with blood or other potentially infectious materials.

Eating, drinking, smoking, applying cosmetics or lip balm, and handling contact lenses are prohibited in work areas where there is a reasonable likelihood of occupational exposure.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Appropriate personal protective equipment that is sufficient to provide protection from potentially infectious materials shall be provided to employees. Latex gloves and pocket masks shall be included in all first aid kits.

CLEAN-UP PROCEDURES

When cleaning up a spill of blood or other potentially infectious material, employees shall wear protective equipment sufficient to prevent contact of the material with the skin. At a minimum, this shall include gloves and eye protection. The spill shall be disinfected with a 10% bleach solution (one part household bleach to nine parts water). Cleanup methods that prevent contact with the material (i.e., dustpan and broom) shall be used, especially when broken glass or other sharp objects are present. Mop or wash the spill area with 10% bleach until visibly clean.

The cleanup material must be labeled and disposed of as infectious waste. Disposal arrangements will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Date