

## Universal Precautions/Handling Body Fluids Procedure

---

1. Employees incur risk of infection and subsequent illness each time they are exposed to blood or other potentially infectious materials. An exposure incident means a specific eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, non-intact skin, or parental contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that result from the performance of an employee's duties.
2. **UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS** shall be the standard of practice and are to be used by all employees and volunteers. Universal Precautions is an approach to infection control. All body fluids, including human blood, are treated as potentially infectious. When possible, direct contact with body fluids is avoided. A protective barrier, which reduces the risk of exposure to the potentially infectious material, is used at all times when exposure to body fluids may occur.
3. PREVENTING INFECTIONS WHEN CONTACTING BODY FLUIDS: <sup>1</sup>

All blood and body fluids will be considered to be capable of causing illness.

- Potentially infectious human body fluids are blood, semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva in dental procedures, any 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.
- There are many diseases which can be spread through direct contact with body fluids.
- To protect children and staff, the guidelines below are followed when anyone is at risk for being or has been in contact with body fluids:
  - Non-porous gloves will be worn by staff when contact with body fluids is anticipated or anytime there are open wounds on a caregiver's hands.
  - Any open cuts or sores on children or staff will be kept covered. Depending on the type of wound, a covering may be a bandage or clothing or for staff -- gloves.
  - Whenever a child or staff comes into contact with any body fluids, the area will be washed immediately with soap and warm water and dried with paper towels.
  - All surfaces in contact with body fluids will be cleaned immediately & the area will be disinfected with a proper disinfecting agent.
  - Cleaning material used to wipe up body fluids will be put in a plastic bag (secured with a tie) and placed in a covered waste container. Any brushes, brooms, dustpans, mops, etc. used to clean-up body fluids will be soaked in a disinfecting solution, and rinsed thoroughly. Cloth items or mops, after soaking, should be washed with hot water -- in a washing machine. All items are hung off the floor or ground to dry. Equipment used for cleaning is stored safely out of children's reach.

---

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from [Handling Body Fluids: Guidelines for Child Care Facilities](#), Seattle-King County Department of Public Health, April 1989 and [Guidelines to meet WISHA requirements for Prevention of Bloodborne Illness](#), Washington State Child Care Coordinating Committee, Health & Safety Subcommittee, March 1994.

- Children's clothes soiled with body fluids will be put into a plastic bag, stored away from children and sent home at the end of the day. A change of clothing will be available for children in care.
- All clothing soiled with body fluids will be changed. Staff in regular contact with body fluids (e.g. changing diapers) are provided an apron (protect street clothing). Staff working with infants or toddlers are advised to have a fresh change of clothes at the center. All soiled laundry will be kept out of reach of children.