

Universal Precautions

for School Staff

Bloodborne Pathogens

Research shows that the risk of getting a significant contagious disease in a school setting is extremely small. However, school staff and contracted personnel in the school need to decrease the possibility of exposure to bloodborne pathogens including HIV, HBV, HCV.

“Universal precautions” means protecting oneself from exposure to blood or body fluids through the use of latex gloves**, masks, or eye goggles; cleaning blood and body fluid spills with soap and bleach solution and water; and disinfecting and incinerating or decontaminating infected waste before disposing in a sanitary landfill. ¹

¹ North Dakota Administrative Rules, Sections 33-06-05.1-01, 33-06-05.1-02, 33-06-05.1-03

Modes of Transmission

“The two common methods of spreading HIV are having sex with an infected individual and using contaminated needles to inject drugs.” (Surgeon General’s Report to the American Public on HIV Infection and AIDS)

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead, State Superintendent

North Dakota Department of Health
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None of These are Modes of Transmission of Bloodborne Pathogens

Sharing Restrooms



Working & Studying with Carriers



Drinking Fountains



Hugging



Eating with Carriers



Mosquitoes



Bathroom Fixtures



Eating Food Prepared by Carriers



Swimming Pools



Shaking Hands



Playing with Carriers



Universal Precautions in the School Setting

*Reduce risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens by using universal precautions to prevent contact with blood and body fluids. **

Begin by attending to the injured person:



Whenever blood and body fluids are present, a barrier (latex rubber gloves**, thick layer of paper towels, or cloth) should be used to minimize exposure of the attending person while the injury is cleansed and/or dressed.



Soiled clothes of the injured person must be bagged to be sent home.

Place waste in a plastic bag for disposal.

Remove gloves and dispose in plastic bag



Thoroughly wash hands with soap.

Clean and disinfect environmental surfaces:



Whenever cleaning and disinfecting environmental surfaces in which blood and body fluids are present, a barrier (rubber utility gloves durable enough to withstand environmental cleaning and disinfecting, thick layer of paper towels, or cloth) should be placed between the blood and the attending person.



Disinfect the affected area(s) and cleaning tools with a commercial tuberculocidal disinfectant (mixed according to manufacturer's specifications) or bleach solution (approximately 1/4 cup common household bleach per gallon of tap water, mixed fresh daily).² The affected surface being disinfected should remain wet for several minutes.



Use disposable paper towels or other disposable materials to remove blood and body fluids.



Secure all waste in a plastic bag for disposal.

Clean up for attending person:



Remove gloves, dispose and secure in a plastic bag.



If running water and soap are not immediately available, a waterless antiseptic cleaner or moist towelette may be used until hands can be thoroughly washed (use of antiseptic cleaner or towelette is NOT a substitute for handwashing). **WASH HANDS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**



Immediately apply soap. Thoroughly wash hands with soap by rubbing hands together (avoid scrubbing hands). Pay particular attention to fingertips, nails and jewelry. Rinse with fingers pointing downward.

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guideline for Prevention of Transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Hepatitis B Virus to Health-care and Public Safety Workers. MMWR Vol. 38/No. S-6:1-37, 1989.

* **Body fluids that contain blood.**

** **Non-latex gloves should be available for any staff member who has a known latex allergy.**

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John Dasovick, the individual in the following position has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

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