

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS FACTS FOR MCPS EMPLOYEES

Bloodborne Pathogens are viruses, such as HIV, Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B, that are spread through contact with blood, body fluid or tissue.

Hepatitis is a serious liver disease and HIV is the virus leading to AIDS. People infected with these viruses may look normal and healthy, but still carry the virus – they may not know they are infected for a long time.

Therefore, any blood, tissue or body fluid should be treated as if it contains a bloodborne pathogen – this is called Universal Precautions.

These viruses are NOT spread by touching, coughing, sneezing or a kiss on the cheek; or from bites or scratches that don't break the skin.

You need to be concerned about the spread of a bloodborne pathogen if:

- . a person is cut on glass, metal or anything that has been contaminated with blood or infected body fluids
- . blood or body fluids have splashed into someone's eyes, or into their nose or into their mouth
- . a cut or break in someone's skin comes into contact with blood or body fluids from another person; this includes human bites

If you are concerned about a bloodborne pathogen exposure, contact your school nurse or supervisor for direction on:

- . care and first aid for anyone sick or injured – WEAR GLOVES!
- . notifying parents of students possibly exposed to a bloodborne pathogen
- . getting a medical evaluation for you, if you are possibly exposed
- . help in cleaning large spills

In schools and on a bus – Cleaning a possibly infectious spill:

- . remove everyone from the exposed area until it can be cleaned
- . the area is to be cleaned with certain products that will kill viruses – custodians and nurses have these products; OR a mixture of 9 parts water and 1 part bleach, that has been mixed in the last 24 hours, may be used – WEAR GLOVES!

- . Follow directions for each cleaner; contact of a bleach solution should be 30 seconds, or however long it takes to air dry
- . For large spills, a spill kit (available through custodians, and available on every bus) should be used – WEAR GLOVES!

FACTS ABOUT THE MCPS EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN

- . Our main product for Universal Precautions is gloves – employees need to keep a supply near where they work – ask your supervisor or school nurse if you need more.
- . We also have red biohazard bags and hard-sided biohazard containers for disposal of blood/body fluid exposed materials – Materials that are saturated in blood or body fluids must NEVER be put in regular trash.
 - . Biohazard bags are available through custodians and school nurses;
 - SHARPS containers are available through school nurses.
- . Items such as band aids, gauze, dressings, paper towels, and tissues that are not so soiled that squeezing releases liquid, may be disposed of in regular trash.
- . Employees who are at high risk of being exposed to blood may receive the hepatitis B vaccine series at MCPS expense - anyone providing first aid, coaches, and those working with certain disabled students may qualify – see your supervisor or school nurse.
- . If you know of an employee OR student who is has hepatitis or HIV, this is confidential information – you may not share this information without the student and parent’s consent. This is why we practice Universal Precautions.
 - . Any employee may review the entire MCPS Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan in a school office, central office personnel department, or any school nurse’s office.
 - . In the case of a possible student exposure, involve the school nurse or an administrator to advise the parents of our concern; it is the parents’ choice of action to take from there.

Any questions, ask your school nurse or supervisor!