

EXPOSURE CONTROL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASE

All parish and school employees and volunteers must be trained to use universal precautions in preventing exposure to disease through blood borne pathogens. The following points must be included:

1. There are a number and variety of infectious diseases transmitted through contact with body fluids. These include the very serious possibilities of HIV and Hepatitis B infection.
2. Universal precautions must be used any time an incident or accident results in the loss of body fluids. People can be contagious while looking and feeling healthy. They may not know they are infected and even if they do know, the law protects the confidentiality of this information.
3. Protective gloves must be used any time first aid requires tending to a person with bleeding or other loss of body fluid. Be sure to remove gloves properly, turning them inside out and being careful not to come in contact with the body fluid. Wash hands thoroughly after removing the gloves. Never wash or re-use protective gloves.
4. Contamination can occur through cuts, scrapes, or other accidents involving sharp objects if splashes of infected blood come into contact with mucous membranes. Caution in avoiding these situations is necessary. If contamination occurs, wash thoroughly with soap and water or flush exposed mucous membranes with water, then report to a supervisor.
5. If a student, participant, volunteer, or employee is exposed to body fluid, a report must be made to the program supervisor. The supervisor must document the incident (see attached form) and refer the victim to his or her physician for consultation on further action.
6. Universal precautions must be used when de-contaminating the environment where an accident or incident has occurred. Refer to the steps on the reverse side of this document.
7. If you do not have training in first aid and / or CPR, identify others who can be of help in an emergency. Be sure to know where first aid materials are located in the area in which you are working.
8. Dispose of contaminated materials appropriately. Blood soaked materials must be handled as hazardous waste. Be alert for sharp objects and never place them in the trash unprotected.
9. ***Hand washing is the single most important method of infection control.***