

EMPLOYEE INFECTION CONTROL



Process of Disease Transmission

General Information:

1. Individuals may be infectious prior to exhibiting symptoms, therefore it is recommended that precautions are implemented for all Local Education Agencies (LEA's) personnel and students. This practice is endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), The American Public Health Association (APHA) and the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Part 19191939, Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations, "Occupational Exposure to Blood borne Pathogens," and is referred to as Standard Precautions. Although OSHA does not regulate LEA's in Alabama, it is imperative that efforts be taken to safeguard the health of students and staff.
2. Standard Precautions includes the use of barriers to prevent contact with non-intact skin, mucous membranes, blood, and body fluids.
3. The term Standard Precautions includes hand-washing and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) gloves, eye protection and barriers to prevent contact where splashing or soiling is likely to occur."
4. Direct contact transmission occurs when the organism enters through small breaks or cracks in skin or is in contact with mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth)
5. Indirect transmission occurs when a host comes in contact with an infectious organism in the environment, via airborne transmission through aerosols or droplets; example influenza (cough, sneeze, nasal discharge), Vehicle infection via contaminated water or food and from fecal material (ex: hepatitis A or salmonella), Vector infection via insects (ex.: Lyme disease from ticks)

Definition:

Prevention, using standard precautions, should include use of cleaning agents and sanitizing contaminated surfaces. Utilizing appropriate barriers such as moisture-resistant disposable products when possible. Cleaning, removing visible soil from objects and surfaces, is essential prior to using a sanitizer or disinfectant.

- "Sanitizer" is a product that reduces germs on inanimate surfaces to levels considered safe by public health codes or regulations. A sanitizer may be appropriate to use on surfaces utilized for food preparation, lunchroom tables, dishes, utensils, cutting boards, and shared daily items.
- "Disinfectant" is a product that destroys or inactivates germs on an inanimate object. A disinfectant may be appropriate to use on non-porous surfaces such as bathroom surfaces, door and cabinet handles, tables or areas that are used for special procedures such as catheterization and diaper changes.

Note: the surface must be visibly clean before sanitizing or disinfecting it. If it is not visibly clean, wash the surface with detergent solution, and then rinse with water before applying the sanitizer or disinfectant. Some sanitizers/disinfectants require rinsing the surface after the chemical is applied for the require contact time. Be sure to read labels and follow the manufacturer's instructions for use.

It is important to remember to use in a well ventilated area, and not in an area that is occupied. Asthma and reactive airway disease can occur in sensitized persons exposed to any airborne chemical, including germicides.

EPA registered products: Federal law requires that all EPA-registered products must be used according to the instructions on the manufacturer's label. Look for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registration number on the label of any product to be used as a sanitizer or disinfectant.

<http://epa.gov/dfe/pubs/projects/formulat/label.htm>

Prevention & Steps to Complete Procedure/Task:

Prevention: Hand Hygiene/ Gloves

1. Handwashing is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of infectious diseases
2. Personal protective equipment should be readily accessible for routine and emergent situations
3. Appropriate equipment for decontamination and disposal of waste products should be readily available

Prevent exposure to blood borne pathogens such as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and Hepatitis C virus.

As well as protection from other body fluids that may not contain blood, including but not limited to saliva, vomit, urine, feces, and discharge from eyes, nasal cavity etc.

Always refer to CDC and ADPH for all current recommendations.

1. All personnel shall consistently utilize good handwashing technique at all times
2. Wear gloves if you anticipate or potentially may contact blood and/or body fluids, including blood-containing tissue or injury discharges. Persons with an allergy to latex should not wear latex gloves. (Check with your school nurse, regarding other glove alternatives.)
3. Pick up the spill using disposable towels and tools that can be disinfected. Be careful not to splash any of the contaminated materials. (If possible ask the person to hold the towel or item to collect the fluid, until you are able to put on gloves.)
4. Utilize single-use disposable gloves and discard them into a hands-free, covered receptacle that is lined with a leak-proof plastic bag that can be securely tied or sealed when removed from the trash.
5. Avoid handling the contaminated gloves. Wash your hands immediately, after removing contaminated gloves.

Handwashing Technique (Recommendation by CDC)

- Wet hands with running water (warm or cold)
- Rub hands together producing friction, lather with soap. (Soap suspends easily removable soil and microorganisms.)
- Remember to scrub between fingers, knuckles, backs of hands, nails and around jewelry.
- Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds (Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice)
- Rinse hands well under clean running water, while holding finger down toward sink
- Dry hands using a disposable paper towel
- Use paper towel to turn off the faucet
- If in public area, after washing hands, we can use a paper towel to open the door and exit
- Throw paper towels and any other dirty items in the appropriate waste containers.

Lunchroom/ Food Preparation

Do not use food preparation sinks to wash hands if contaminated with blood or other body fluids

Wash hands before: serving food; before and after eating; before and after preparing food

Handwashing is essential to prevent the transmission of germs from person to person and is not replaced by the use of gloves. Gloves may be worn to protect the wearer or they may be worn to protect others from the wearer. For example, gloves may be worn to protect the wearer when assisting a person with a bloody nose. However, food preparers wear gloves to protect the public from the wearer.

Gloves do not provide total protection, since defects may occur. The combination of gloves, and handwashing, offers the most complete protection.

Wear gloves:

- When in contact with blood or other body fluids is anticipated or may potentially occur
- When open sores and cuts are present
- When cleaning items that may be contaminated with body fluids such as blood, urine and vomit

Wear Gloves for Specific Tasks:

First aid, CPR and emergency care

Nursing, health care procedures

Before and after procedures (Including teachers/staff that has received specialized training by the nurse for procedures such as EpiPen in an anaphylaxis emergency; Unlicensed Diabetic Assistance, staff that has received training and delegation for specific identified students using blood glucose testing with sharps and needles for diabetic care, emergency care with glucose gel or glucagon.)

Before and after changing diapers and toileting

Cleaning contaminated areas

Disposing of trash

Handling or preparing food

Donning (putting on) Gloves:

- Gloves should fit smoothly, not loose
- Avoid excessive stretching of gloves, not tight
- Inspect gloves for visible breaks or tears in the gloves
- Gloves must be changed between each person, completion of each task

Remove gloves:

The outside of used gloves should be considered a health hazard. Avoid contacting any bare skin with the outside surface of used gloves.

- Grasp the cuff area of one glove using other gloved hand.(Glove: dirty/dirty)
- Pull the glove off the hand, allowing it to turn inside out.
- Grasp and contain the glove, formed into a ball within the palm of the gloved hand.
- Place the thumb of the ungloved hand underneath the cuff (between skin and glove) of the gloved hand, and remove it by pulling inside out, over the first glove. (Clean/Clean)
- Push glove inside out, down over fingers and around balled up glove. Both soiled glove surfaces are now contained inside the second glove.
- Grasp inside out gloves and discard into plastic sealable bag, in accordance with disposal procedures

After removing gloves, wash and dry hands thoroughly. Do not contaminate area such as telephones, doors, drawer handles, light switch or elevator buttons before removing gloves.

Disposal of Sharps (Including specific tasks)

1. Unlicensed Medication Assistant: commonly referred to as medication assistance (MA's)

Anaphylaxis Preparedness Act #2014-405: A single dose auto injectable medication, epinephrine used for anaphylaxis, may be administered or provided to school children by the school nurse, or medication assistant who has completed an anaphylaxis training program conducted by a nationally recognized organization experience in training laypersons in emergency health treatment or other medication administration program approved by the State Department of Ed. and State Board of Nursing.

- EpiPen auto injector in an approved designated sharps container and disposal of gloves appropriately

2. Unlicensed Diabetic Assistant: commonly referred to as UDA

Each local education agency (LEA) shall **ensure that diabetes training programs are provided in accordance with the Safe at Schools Act #2014-437**, in the care needed for students with diabetic medical needs according to the student's Individualized Healthcare Plan (IHP). The medical authorizations of which are limited to permitting the administration of injectable medication specific to his or her diabetes; the Unlicensed Diabetic Assistant (UDA), to the extent required by the student's IHCP, may perform task based on the individual student's needs, such as use of glucose gel to oral mucus membranes, finger stick for glucose monitoring, and may include the use of injectable medication such as insulin and glucagon in accordance with the Safe at Schools Act and to the extent of the IHP.

- Sharps and Injectable in an approved designated sharps container, and disposal of gloves appropriately, as indicated.

GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING BODY FLUIDS

Objects and surfaces that come in contact with blood and/or body fluids need to be cleaned immediately.

- Use disposable gloves and disposable towels for cleaning up blood and body fluids.

If contamination occurs on surfaces such as floors, walls, bathrooms, or procedure areas:

- Clean the surface with disposable gloves and disposable towels
- Fresh water and cleaning agent should be used for cleaning contaminated and/or dirty objects and surfaces. DO NOT REUSE WATER. (If possible, rinse objects under water after cleaning.)
- Disinfect all areas, surfaces and objects after cleaning. (Follow product manufacturer label.)
- Contaminates should be sealed and discarded in a plastic-lined hazardous waste container

Objects and surfaces that come in contact with blood and/or body fluids (stool, urine, vomit) need to be disinfected immediately after cleaning.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Immediately clean any surface or items that are contaminated with blood or other body fluids.
- Disposable paper towels should be used in the cleaning process.
- Disinfect all surfaces after cleaning using the correct bleach solution or use an EPA approved commercial disinfectant.
- If using bleach solution make it FRESH DAILY, since it loses its ability to kill germs over time.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MIX AND USE OF DISINFECTANT FORMULAS FOR MIXING CHLORINE BLEACH SOLUTIONS

Some of the proportions will be approximate for both formulations. Standard abbreviation for cups (C.), tablespoons (T.), and teaspoons (t.) are used.

1:10 Chlorine Bleach Solution

This solution is used for general cleaning of non-porous environmental surfaces on a routine basis. The solution must be **MADE FRESH DAILY** or at least every four hours, as the active ingredient is lost more rapidly in very dilute solutions than in the more concentrated solutions. Test bleach solutions with chlorine strips for adequate concentrations before use.

- Commercial disinfectants, must be effective against hard- to-kill bacteria, and approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency. (Follow product manufacturer label.)

KEEP DISINFECTANT, as well as, BLEACH OR BLEACH AND WATER SOLUTION OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN. Remove gloves and discard after use.