

PUHSD Bloodborne Pathogens

Exposure Control Plan Overview

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PERRIS UNION
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN

This is an overview of Perris Union High School District's "Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan". Copies of the plan can be found at each school site with the Principal's Secretary, in the Health Office, and in the Athletic Dept. Copies can also be located in each administrative office or department. Please contact or call Risk Management with any questions or concerns (951) 943-6369 x 80281.

The most dangerous pathogens that are carried by the blood are HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and Hepatitis B (HBV) or Hepatitis C (HCV), viruses that can damage your liver, cause cancer or even kill you. Bloodborne Pathogens may enter your body and infect you as a result of: accidental injuries with a sharp object that is contaminated with infectious materials; contact with open cuts, nicks, skin abrasions, or mucous membranes of your mouth, eyes or nose, or by indirect transmission which may occur by touching a contaminated object or surface and transferring the infectious material to your mouth, eyes, nose or broken skin.

HEPATITIS B

By definition, Hepatitis B (HBV) is an infection of the liver caused by a virus present in blood and other body fluids of infected persons. The HBV infection is caused by a specific virus known as Hepatitis B virus (HBV). The incubation period for this virus can be as long as 176 days with an average of 120. The symptoms may include anorexia, malaise, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and jaundice. The disease is always present in some individuals. The chronic stage of the disease is more common in the younger individual. The disease can be passed from one person to another. The body fluids containing the highest concentration of the virus are the blood and blood fluids. HBV is most usually transmitted through the use of contaminated needles or sexual contact. The disease can be transmitted when the HBV infected blood or body fluids of an infected individual come in direct contact with: a break in the skin (sores, cuts, needle punctures, etc.) or; mucus membranes (eyes, nose, mouth, etc.) of a non-infected individual. This virus can survive on dry surfaces at room temperature for at least one week.

Less than 50% of those who become infected show symptoms of illness. Some of the symptoms that might be shown by the other 50% are fatigue, weight loss, headache, dark urine, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, nausea, jaundice or clay colored stools. The virus can get into your body through needles, broken skin, mouth, cuts, eyes or nose. It is transmitted through the following body

fluids: blood, vaginal fluids, semen, breast milk, or saliva, vomitus, tears, mucous, urine and sweat that may have blood mixed in it.

The dangers of HBV are illness, loss work time, becoming a chronic carrier, cirrhosis, liver cancer, liver transplant, or death. There is however a HBV vaccine given in three doses over a six-month period of time. The vaccine is approximately 90% effective but should not be taken by those allergic to yeast, pregnant, nursing mothers, or are ill. About 85-96% of adults achieve adequate antibody protection from the vaccine but some of the side effects of the vaccine include soreness, fatigue, redness, swelling at site, fever, headache, or dizziness.

The District has determined that all employees in the following job classifications and responsibilities have potential occupational exposure to HBV and are given the option of receiving the Hepatitis B vaccine, at no cost to them, or signing a declination form:

- Attendance Tech/Health Aide
- Campus Supervisor
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Custodian
- District School Nurse
- Maintenance/Plumber
- Para educators for Severely Handicapped (SH)

Any other staff member that encounters exposure to bloodborne pathogens shall contact the nursing staff or Risk Management to request the HBV vaccination series by completing the Petition for Hepatitis Vaccine, from section 4 of the plan. Each request will be individually evaluated. If occupational exposure is confirmed the District will consider possible engineering controls, work practice controls and/or offering the HBV vaccination series.

HEPATITIS C

Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by infection with the Hepatitis C virus (HCV). The virus is found in the blood of persons who have this disease and is spread by contact with infected blood. HCV has similar features to Hepatitis B, but can remain in an individual's system for years with no apparent symptoms. There currently is no vaccine for HCV. More information about HCV can be found at the following website: www.cdc.gov/Hepatitis.

HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV)

AIDS is caused by infection with the HIV Virus. This virus causes the gradual breakdown of the immune system, which leads to a variety of unusual infections. These infections lead to the diagnosis of AIDS.

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a medical condition associated with a loss of the body's natural immunity against disease. AIDS is characterized by an often-fatal breakdown of the body's immune system – the biological defense that helps protect us from illness. Once the condition develops, a patient becomes susceptible to a variety of opportunistic infections.

Some of the symptoms of HIV include severe weight loss, a purplish rash, swollen glands over the body, constant fever, diarrhea, exhaustion, or unusual infections. There is no vaccine for HIV. It is transmitted through blood, semen, vaginal fluids and breast milk.

EXPOSURE CONTROL PROCEDURES

The BBP ECP has Work Practice Controls in place to reduce or eliminate exposure in the workplace that include:

- Disposal of Sharps containers
- Handling and disposal of regulated waste
- Housekeeping and labels
- Hepatitis B vaccinations
- Exposure reporting
- Employee training

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS

Use of universal precautions eliminates much of the fear of not knowing if a student in the classroom or fellow employee has an infection. The most basic universal precaution is hand washing; and should happen:

Before eating, drinking or smoking

- Before handling cooking utensils or implements
- Before and after preparing food or assisting with feeding
- Before and after assisting with toileting or diapering
- After close personal care of students, especially those with nose, mouth, eye or ear drainage
- After contact with body fluids such as respiratory secretions, blood (including menstrual flow), urine, feces, mucous, or drainage from wounds
- Before putting on and after removing disposable gloves (gloves encourage moist environment conducive to bacterial growth)
- After feeding, handling, or cleaning up after animals in the classroom
- After using the toilet

Use all suggested personal protective equipment and procedures. If you need protective equipment, contact your site administrator, supervisor or Risk Management. Remember, only you can protect yourself against infection.

POST EXPOSURE PROCEDURES

If someone else's blood or body fluids comes in contact with your blood or body fluids through an exposure incident while at work:

- 1) Wash the area immediately with soap and water for a minimum of 30 seconds (depending on size of wound).

- 2) Report exposure/injury to your supervisor immediately.
- 3) Complete exposure/injury report found in section 4 of the plan. (Certified Nursing Assistant, Attendance Tech/Health Aide, or Principal's Secretary can help with the form(s)).
- 4) See doctor who will counsel employee about the exposure and review options that may include HBV vaccinations, collecting exposed employee's blood to test for HIV, HBV, and HCV etc.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Employees exposed to a potentially infectious material have the right to receive post exposure medical care and follow up. However, it is their responsibility to work safely, use personal protective equipment (PPE) whenever possible and to report exposure incidents to their supervisor.

All results of an employee exposure incident are kept in strict confidentiality. Adults must grant their own written permission to share HIV/HBV/HCV status. Sharing information about AIDS/HIV/HBV/HCV infection is prohibited by law and may subject you to civil penalties with a fine up to \$5,000.

Current law does not require parents or physicians to inform school officials of a student's AIDS/HIV/HBV/HCV status. Any disclosure by a student or parent must be kept confidential unless written permission is given. A parent or guardian may grant written permission to share information on a student under 18, but AIDS/HIV/HBV/HCV information may be shared only with specifically named persons. Forms for authorizing blanket permission to share status are inadequate.

Students must not be excluded, or placed specially or solely because of AIDS or HIV status. A student's physician may determine school attendance inappropriate due to the student's vulnerability to infections present at school.

DISTRICT CONTACT

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