BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

Galveston ISD Annual Training
Special Programs

Required Training

- Training is required by the Texas Department of Health Chapter 96, Blood borne Pathogen Control
- Every employee of the district will be required to have some training on blood borne pathogens every year they are employed in a public school district.
- Questions??? – Please contact your school nurse

TEXAS Department of State Health Services

What are Bloodborne Pathogens?

- **Definition:** A bloodborne pathogen is any microscopic organism that is carried in the blood and causes disease.

- Blood borne pathogens travel from person to person when the blood or body fluid of a sick person gets inside another person.

- In the work place the most commonly transmitted blood borne diseases are :

- Hepatitis B (HBV)
- Hepatitis C (HCV)
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV))

Hepatitis B



- Hepatitis means – *inflammation of the liver*
- As its name implies, Hepatitis B is a virus that infects the liver
- 50% of people infected with Hepatitis B have *no* symptoms
- For those that do have symptoms, they are very much like a mild "flu".
- They include: jaundice, fatigue, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, occasional nausea or vomiting.

Hepatitis B Vaccine

- The district provides a Hepatitis B vaccination for staff in positions which have been determined to have at high risk for occupational exposure. These at risk staff members will be offered the Hepatitis B vaccination at no cost.

- Staff who are exposed and have not had the Hepatitis B series may still obtain vaccination protection through a post-exposure vaccination. In such a situation, the post-exposure protocol is set forth in the Exposure Control Plan.

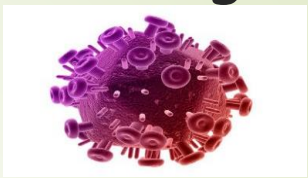
- Hepatitis B Vaccine is one of the most effective and safest vaccines in the world.

Hepatitis C



- Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV), which is found in the blood of persons who have the disease.
- The infection is spread by contact through exposure to the blood of an infected person, and is generally *not* transmitted easily through occupational exposure to blood.
- This virus can be spread through blood-to-blood and sexual contact, tattoos, drug use and sharing of needles.
- Most people who get Hepatitis C carry the virus for the rest of their lives. Most of these people have some liver damage, but many do not feel sick from the disease.
- Some people with liver damage due to Hepatitis C may develop liver failure which is the leading cause of liver transplants.
- Symptoms may appear similar to those of the Hepatitis B virus.
- Currently there is no vaccine to prevent HCV.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)



- HIV is the virus that causes AIDS. This virus is passed from one person to another through blood-to-blood and sexual contact. This virus infects human T-cells and decrease a person's ability to fight off other disease causing germs.
- HIV attacks a person' s immune system and causes it to break down.
- Some infected persons may go on to develop AIDS.
- AIDS/HIV can be a fatal disease. While treatment for it is improving, there is no known cure.
- There is no preventative vaccine for HIV.
- The good news is the HIV virus is very fragile and will not survive very long outside the human body.

Myths About Contracting HIV

- You cannot contract HIV from:
- Telephones, toilet seats, doorknobs or insect bites
- Shaking hands, being sneezed or coughed on
- Donating blood

Reducing Your Risk…… How?

- The bottom line – treat blood, all body fluids, excretions, secretions, non-intact skin, and mucous membranes as though infected with blood borne or other pathogens.

TREAT EVERYONE AS IF THEY ARE INFECTED



Plan a Safe Response



- As sure as children fall while learning to walk, students experience cuts, bruises and other injuries.
- In times past, little thought was given to treatment of such injuries.
- However, in today's environment it is critical that school professionals plan a safe response to children in need.
- Whether in the classroom, on a playing field or at recess, all school employees must know the potential danger of blood borne pathogens.

So… How do you protect yourself?



By Doing Several Things:

- **Take training classes**
- **Following guidelines as listed in the Exposure Control Plan and using Universal Precautions.**
- **Using protective equipment as needed.**
- **Gaining an understanding of how blood borne pathogens effect everyone.**

Personal Protective Equipment

Bloodborne pathogen can be prevented with the proper use of specialized equipment and clothing. PPE that may be used for preventive measures are:

- Gloves
- Face shields
- Gowns
- Masks
- Goggles

Personal Protective Equipment (Gloves)



- **Rules to follow:**

- Always wear personal protective equipment (PPE) in exposure situations.
- If the PPE is damaged or does not fit, please do not use the item.
- If the PPE is penetrated by blood or body fluid, remove the item and dispose of it according to the district's Exposure Control Plan.
- When taking contaminated gloves off, do so carefully so that the outside of the gloves do not come in contact with any bare skin.
- Replace disposable single use gloves as soon as possible if they are contaminated, torn, punctured or no longer effective – NEVER RE-USE THEM!

Proper Removal of Contaminated Gloves

- **While both hands are gloved, carefully peel one glove off from the wrist to the fingertips – then hold it in the gloved hand – with the exposed hand, peel the 2nd glove off the same way, tucking the 1st glove inside the 2nd. Dispose of promptly and *NEVER* touch the outside of a glove with your bare skin.**
- ***Always* wash your hands with soap and running water as soon as possible.**



Hand Washing

#1 Protection Against Infection

- Reduces the risk of infection for you and others.
- Wash your hands after contacting blood, body fluids, excretions or secretions, even if you are wearing gloves.
- Wash hands with soap and running water for at least 20 seconds.
- Rub vigorously over all surfaces including above your wrists.
- Rinse thoroughly and dry with clean paper towel and discard.
- Using clean paper towel, turn off faucet.
- Anti-microbial soaps or cleaners should only be used when indicated since they remove your skin's natural protective defenses.

Common Sense Work Practices



- In work areas where there is a reasonable likelihood of exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials, employees are not to eat, drink, apply cosmetics or lip balm, or handle contact lenses.
- Food and beverages are not to be kept in refrigerators, freezers, shelves, cabinets, or on counter/bench tops where blood or other potentially infectious materials are present.
- All procedures are conducted in a manner to minimize splashing, spraying, splattering, and generation of droplets of blood or other potentially infectious materials.
- Clean all blood and fluid spills promptly according to district policy.

Good Housekeeping



- Employees involved in decontamination of work surfaces or equipment or who handle contaminated laundry, must wear gloves to prevent contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials.
- All contaminated work surfaces should be decontaminated after completion of procedures, immediately or as soon as possible after any spill of blood or other infectious materials, and at the contaminated since the last cleaning.
- Broken glass must not be picked up directly with the hands. It should be cleaned up using mechanical means, such as a brush and a dustpan.
- Other regulated waste must be placed in appropriate containers that are leak resistant and closed prior to removal. Biohazard (red) bags are not required for waste disposal in the public school setting but may be used in some instances.

Exposure……

- Unbroken skin forms a very efficient barrier against blood borne pathogens.
  - However, infected blood/body fluids can enter your system through:
    - Open sores
    - Cuts
    - Abrasions/Scrapes
    - Acne
    - Any sort of damaged or broken skin such as sunburn or blisters.
  - Blood borne pathogens may also be transmitted through the mucous membranes of the:
    - Eyes
    - Nose
    - Mouth

An exposure example could be breaking up a fight at school where a students potentially infectious blood gets on your hand which you have recently cut.

If Exposed



- Do Not Panic – see your campus nurse for assistance.
- Immediately wash exposed skin area with soap and water
- If infectious materials enter your eyes, flush eyes with large amounts clean water for at least 15 minutes.
- Report exposure to campus nurse or principal as soon as possible on the day of the incident.
- Follow staff post-exposure management from the Exposure Control Plan
- Exposure does not always lead to infection.

SUMMARY



- Remember to treat all blood and body fluids as though infected with blood borne pathogens.
- Use gloves when handling any body fluids since they may contain a variety of pathogens.
- Disinfect any spills with an appropriate germicidal agent and dispose of all contaminated materials according to school policy.
- By following simple safety guidelines, you can deal with blood safely while treating the person in need with compassion.