

Blood Borne Pathogens Procedure

RATIONALE:

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board is committed to ensuring the provision of plans, programs, and/or services that will enable students with health or medical needs to attend and participate in school.

All health support services must be administered in a manner that respects, to the degree possible in the circumstances, the student's right to privacy, dignity and cultural sensitivity.

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board recognizes its responsibility to minimize potential exposure of individuals to blood borne pathogens, while also respecting everyone's right to privacy regarding their medical condition.

Recognizing that our working relationships with students, staff and the public could lead to exposure to various disease causing organisms, including bacteria, viruses, parasites and fungi, then the Health and Safety procedures SP-09 Routine Practices for Infection Control and SP-25 Sharps Handling and Disposal will be implemented.

An individual's best protection against blood borne pathogens is to assume that the entire population is infected and follow proper procedures. By treating all individuals equally, the privacy of those individuals infected will be maintained.

TERMINOLOGY:

Bodily Fluids: a term applied to blood, select bodily fluids, secretions and excretions such as urine, vomit, sputum and drainage from any bodily orifice or non-intact skin. Bodily fluids that carry blood borne infections/diseases such as HIV/AIDS, or Hepatitis B and C, include blood, semen, vaginal fluids, breast milk and any fluid that contains visible blood.

First Aid Procedures: refer to any procedures involving the treatment of an injured person in an emergency, before full medical care can be obtained.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): refers to gloves, gowns, suits aprons, masks, face shields, goggles, safety glasses and any other protective barrier.

Routine Practices: refers to safe standards of practice to be used to prevent exposure to blood, bodily fluids, secretions, excretions, mucous membranes, non-intact skin or soiled items and to prevent the spread of microorganisms. Health and Safety Procedure SP-09 details routine practices at HWDSB.

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Sharp: refers to objects that may inject infectious fluids into the body by puncturing or cutting the skin including needlesticks, lancets, scalpels and insulin pen tips.

PROCEDURES:

1.0 Responsibility

- 1.1 Training and education programs for staff will be developed by the Health and Safety Department through the Central Joint Health and Safety Committee.
- 1.2 Additional training/direction/consultation may be obtained from a medical/health care provider, as appropriate for a specific individual.
- 1.3 Principals/Supervisors are responsible for the review of appropriate procedures with staff on a regular basis.
- 1.4 Staff are to follow established procedures and report any concerns to their principal/supervisor.
- 1.5 Custodial staff will employ appropriate cleaning and disinfecting procedures when contamination from blood, bodily fluids, secretions or excretions are suspected.

2.0 Process

- 2.1 Staff will be provided access to nitrile gloves and other protective barriers where appropriate.
- 2.2 Staff on duty outside the regular classroom should carry a pair of gloves with them in case of an emergency.
- 2.3 A sharps disposal container will be maintained at the school and disposed of through the work order system as outlined in SP-25 Sharps Handling and Disposal.
- 2.4 Routine Practices as outlined in SP-09 Routine Practices for Infection Control are to be employed with the assumption that all bodily fluids contain blood borne pathogens and other infectious pathogens. This includes the use of personal protective equipment such as gloves when providing first aid or personal care to another individual that may expose the worker to bodily fluids.
- 2.5 Any concerns involving possible exposure/contact to/with bodily fluids shall be reported immediately to the supervisor as outlined in SP-2 Incident Investigation and Reporting.
- 2.6 The Area Supervisor and Health and Safety Department should be consulted if concerns about additional/alternate cleaning measures are required.