



A communicable disease is defined in the Public Health Act 1(1) as an illness that is caused by the transmission of an infectious agent or its toxic products directly or indirectly from an infected person, animal or plant, an inanimate object or the environment.

The Board is committed to ensuring the health and safety of students and employees in accordance with The Public Schools Act, Sections 41(1)(m), 96(1)(e), 232(1), 232(2), 233, 234, 235, 261(2) and the Manitoba School Administration Handbook.

PREVENTION AND PRECAUTIONS

To prevent the transmission of blood-borne germs in the school setting, the best approach is to treat all body fluids of every person as potentially infectious. These precautions are intended to supplement existing routine infection control procedures and do not address transmission of non-blood-borne germs.

The following precautions should be taken to avoid the spread of germs when a person comes in contact with blood or body fluids from other persons:

Hygiene and Sanitation

Hand washing is the single most effective way to prevent the transmission of most communicable diseases. In order to prevent the transmission of blood-borne germs, hand washing is necessary:

- after a glove leak or tear;
- after removing gloves;
- after handling materials that may be contaminated with blood or fluids capable of transmitting blood-borne germs.

Hands should be washed by rubbing vigorously for at least 10 to 15 seconds with soap and water, and should be dried with a paper towel or air dryer.

Equipment (including mops) and surfaces contaminated with blood or fluids capable of transmitting blood-borne pathogens should be cleaned thoroughly.

Waste

Disposable sharp items such as lancets, needles, or broken glass, if contaminated with blood, should be carefully handled and placed by the user in an approved puncture-resistant container. Suctioned fluids, excretions, and secretions may be carefully poured down drains connected to the sanitary sewer system.

Disposable items such as paper towels used to clean up blood or fluids capable of transmitting blood-borne pathogens should be placed in a plastic bag and disposed of with the regular garbage.

Clothing and linen visibly soiled with blood or body fluids should be rinsed in cold water, placed in a plastic bag, and sent home.

Personal Protective Equipment

Appropriate protective equipment should be worn for anticipated exposure to blood or body fluids capable of transmitting blood-borne pathogens.



Disposable Gloves

- Disposable gloves made of a material such as vinyl or latex, when intact, provide an adequate barrier to blood-borne pathogens.
- Disposable gloves should be worn for all procedures that may involve direct contact of skin or mucous membranes with blood or body fluids capable of transmitting blood-borne pathogens
- Disposable gloves must be changed immediately after use and after contact with each individual before care is provided to another.
- Disposable gloves must be discarded and not washed or disinfected.

ACCIDENTAL EXPOSURE

A significant exposure is defined as an injury during which one person's blood or body fluid containing blood comes in contact with someone else's broken, punctured or chapped skin, or mucous membranes. Injuries of concern involve needle sticks and other sharps, as well as splashes and bites.

If a significant exposure occurs in the school/work setting:

1. Provide first aid:
 - encourage bleeding at the injury site;
 - wash area well with soap and warm water;
 - for splashes to the eye(s), wash the eye out well with cold water.
2. Report to:
 - the school administrator, who will complete a Student Accident Form or an Employee Accident and Workers' Compensation Report respectively;
 - Public Health personnel for consultation regarding appropriate management and any treatment required (consistent with the Integrated Post-Exposure Protocol from Manitoba Health)
 - your primary care physician for medical follow-up, if required