



SIGNATURE PREPARATORY

Proper Handling and Disposal of Medical Waste and Devices

In order to ensure the safety of all students and staff from bloodborne pathogens, Signature Preparatory follows the guidelines developed by the Centers of Disease Control (CDC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). In accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Blood-Borne Pathogens Standard, 29 CFR 1910.1030, Signature Preparatory has developed an Exposure Control Plan (ECP) in order to provide a secure and healthful work environment for all staff. It is imperative that everyone follows these regulations and incorporates safe practices in order to substantially reduce the risk of contracting a bloodborne disease while on the job.

Bloodborne pathogens are microorganisms carried by human blood and other body fluids. The two most common are the hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV) and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Unfortunately, children are as prone to bloodborne diseases as adults are. Many children need their medication during school hours routinely or need to have it on campus in case of an emergency situation. Without their inhalers, Epinephrine injections, insulin injections, etc., this could potentially lead to a life-threatening situation.

All students and staff should follow standard precautions to help prevent the spread of bloodborne pathogens and other diseases whenever there is a risk of exposure to blood or other body fluids. These precautions require that all blood and other body fluids be treated as if they are infectious. Standard precautions include maintaining personal hygiene and using personal protective equipment (PPE), engineering controls, and proper equipment cleaning and storage procedures.

Thoroughly wash your hands and other areas immediately after self-administering your medication. The CDC recommends following these five steps every time:

1. Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
2. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.
4. Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
5. Dry your hands using a clean towel or an air dryer.

Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer of minimum 60% alcohol, only when a hand-washing facility is not available. Please keep in mind that hand sanitizer does not get rid of all types of germs and will not be effective when hands are visibly dirty or greasy. Cover all surfaces of your hand and rub your fingers and hands together until they are dry. Once a hand-washing facility is readily

available, the student must wash their hands with soap and water as well. When practical, also wash your hands before taking your medication.

All needles (e.g., Glucagon, Insulin, Epinephrine pens, lancets, etc.) must be discarded in a Signature Preparatory sharps container. You can become infected by cutting yourself with a contaminated sharp object. Only the student that is self-administering the medication should be the one handling the medication at all times until discarding. Parents of insulin-dependent diabetic students should provide a sharps container for safe disposal of lancets and syringes for their child. If unable to provide this device, please contact the Signature Preparatory health office immediately. All containers should be discarded in accordance with State procedures when the container is 2/3rd full. When the container is full, the parents should be notified to pick it up and dispose of it as home medical waste. Sharps containers must be stored in a locked cabinet to prevent access by others. For management in the health office, a sharps container is readily available.

You must wear gloves when it is reasonably anticipated your hands may contact: blood, potentially infectious materials, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin. Replace gloves as soon as you can if they are torn or punctured. Due to the risk of becoming torn or punctured, all open wounds on hands and/or fingers must be bandaged before placing the gloves on. Please keep in mind that gloves do not replace hand-washing. Handwashing is one of the best ways to protect yourself and others around you.

All students and employees must follow universal precautions to prevent contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials. PPE that can be worn may include: gloves, masks, protective eyewear, masks, etc. Signature Preparatory health office will issue personnel protective equipment and have it readily accessible as needed to you.

Please remember that accidents happen. If you are exposed or there is a medication spill, immediately report the incident to the health office so they can properly assist with post-exposure care, referrals, and/or clean up. The authorization to self-administer medication may be revoked if the student fails to comply with the protocols for containing blood-borne pathogens and safe-handling/disposal of needles, medical devices, and other medical waste. Remember that an exposure may potentially lead to infection. Using standard precautions may literally save your life.

Resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>

https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/atg/PDFs/Take_a_Class/Bloodborne-Pathogens-Fact-and-Skill-Sheets.pdf

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1030>

http://www.creighton.edu/fileadmin/user/SchoolHealth/docs/Blood_borne_pathogen_training.pdf