

Policies

Westerly Public Schools
Bloodborne Pathogens

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In accordance with the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations dealing with “Safe Workplace” standards relating to exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens, the following will be the policy and procedures of Westerly Public Schools for AT RISK personnel (Please see the complete list on Page 2) and will be monitored by the Rhode Island Department of Labor.

It will be the policy of this district to take all reasonably necessary actions to protect its employees from infections disease and particular Human Immunodeficiency Virus (H.I.V.) and Hepatitis B. Virus (H.B.V.) infection.

The District will provide the training and protective equipment to those persons who are at risk by virtue of their job performance and may come in contact with infectious disease. Furthermore, all Westerly personnel defined by Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the district as Category I will be offered the vaccine for Hepatitis B Virus which is a life threatening bloodborne pathogen.

The vaccination will be done at no cost to the personnel and is provided as a precaution for personnel safety.

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SUMMARY OF EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN

(NOTE: This information is excerpted from the complete Westerly Public Schools Exposure Control Plan)

A. At-Risk Personnel

- a. Category I: A list of job classifications in which all employees have occupational exposure:
 1. School nurse-teachers assisting and treating injured students may come in contact with blood and other bodily fluids.
 2. Special education teachers and aides in self-contained programs,
 3. Custodial staff and staff who substitute for them, may have to clean up after injured persons where they may come in contact with blood and other bodily fluids.
 4. Category II: A list of job classifications in which some employees have occupational exposure as they may come in contact with blood and other bodily fluids in performance of their jobs in treating injured students.
 - a. Principals,
 - b. Assistant Principals,
 - c. Physical Education Teachers,
 - d. Athletic Coaches,
 - e. Special Education teachers, aides
 - f. Science Lab Teachers
 - g. Playground Aides
 - h. School bus drivers, monitors, and aides

B. Tasks and Procedures in which occupational exposures occur and are performed by employees in the above job categories.

1. Providing or assisting with providing emergency first aid;
2. Providing or assisting with providing area clean-up, disposal of personal protective equipment and/or contaminated materials or Other Potentially Infectious Materials (OPIM) after blood or body fluid spill;
3. Cleaning, handling and/or disposing of equipment used for emergency first aid or used for area clean-up;
4. Cleaning, handling and/or disposing of broken glass, metal, sharps or other equipment which has the potential to cause a bleeding injury.

C. Infectious or potentially infectious Fluids/Materials

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1. All blood/body fluids shall be considered potentially infections i.e.:
 - a. Blood
 - b. Saliva
 - c. Urine
 - d. Feces
 - e. Amniotic Fluid
 - f. Semen
 - g. Vaginal Secretions
 - h. Cerebrospinal fluid
 - i. Pleural (from lungs) Fluid
 - j. Synovial (fluid from joints) fluid
 - k. Pericardial (fluid from around the heart) Fluid
 - l.
2. Any identifiable fluid or secretion or grossly contaminated secretion/excretion.

D. Utilization of Universal Precautions

Universal precautions, whereby all human blood and OPIM are considered potentially infections, shall be practiced by all employees identified as having occupational exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens.

E. Utilization of Engineering Controls

Engineering controls, e.g., needle disposal systems, red biohazard plastic liner bags, etc. shall be used to eliminate and/or minimize employees' occupational exposure. Such controls shall be examined and maintained or replaced at least annually to ensure their effectiveness.

F. Utilization of Work Practice Controls

Work practice controls, e.g., hand washing, sharps precautions, housekeeping, etc. shall be utilized to minimize and/or eliminate employee's occupational exposure to blood or OPIM.

G. Utilization of Personal Protective Equipment (See Page 5 for list of Personal Protective Equipment.)

Employees subject to occupational exposure shall be provided with personal protective equipment which shall be maintained and used if work practices or engineering controls fail to eliminate exposure to blood or body fluids.. Personal protective equipment includes gloves, gowns, eye/face protection.

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H. Immunization/Post-Exposure Follow-up Treatment

Each employee subject to occupational exposure shall be strongly encouraged to receive Hepatitis B vaccine at no cost to the employee within ten working days of employment. To decline this vaccination, employees must sign the form in Addendum “A” of the Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan.

I. Training and Education of Employees

Each employee shall receive training and education from District School Nurse Teachers in accordance with the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard within ten days of initial employment and at least annually thereafter. Annual training is conducted on the first day of school for all school and custodial personnel and semi-annual training is conducted for all Transportation personnel.

J. Record Keeping/Compliance

Compliance with this plan and all recordkeeping shall be maintained by school nurse teachers in accordance with the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard.

IMPLEMENTATION

A. Work Practices

1. Hand washing

a. Environmental Factors

Hand washing facilities including hand washing liquid and paper towels or electric hand dryers shall be readily accessible in all areas where employees are subject to occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens. If hand washing facilities are not feasible in a given area or situation, an antiseptic hand cleaner and towels or towelettes shall be provided. Bar soap shall not be left on sinks or counter tops.

b. Practices

Employees shall wash their hands immediately or as soon as feasible after removal of gloves or other personal protective equipment, or if there has

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been unanticipated contact with blood or body fluids. Hands or skin surfaces shall be washed with soap and water or other approved hand-washing solution and mucous membranes shall be flushed with water immediately or as soon as feasible following any contact with blood or body fluids.

2. Sharps Precautions

Disposal

Designated leak-proof, puncture-resistant containers shall be easily accessible to personnel and located as closely as possible to the areas where sharps are used or use can be reasonably anticipated. Nurses' offices in all schools will be the designated location for Westerly Public Schools. Used needles and sharps shall be disposed of immediately or as soon as feasible after use. Sharps disposal containers shall not be filled beyond three-fourths of their capacities and shall be closed prior to removal or replacement.

3. Equipment

Equipment used shall not require special handling unless such equipment becomes visibly contaminated with blood or body fluids. Visibly contaminated equipment shall be cleansed initially with soap and water followed by disinfection with approved disinfectant in a manner appropriate to the item. If cleansing does not adequately remove blood or body fluids or if decontamination is not feasible, the item shall be discarded and replaced.

4. General Work Practices

Any and all procedures involving blood or body fluids shall be performed in a manner that eliminates or minimizes splashing, spraying, splattering, or generation of droplets of these substances.

Eating, drinking, smoking, applying cosmetics or lip balm, and handling of contact lenses shall be prohibited in work areas where there is a reasonable likelihood of occupational exposure.

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B. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

1. General Rules

Whenever there is risk of occupational exposure, appropriate types and sizes of PPE shall be provided to all employees at no cost to the employees. PPE shall include but is not limited to disposable gloves, aprons, face shields, masks, eye protection, and shoe covers. Westerly Public Schools shall provide, repair, maintain, or dispose of PPEs at no cost to the employee.

PPE shall be used whenever there is risk of splash, splatter, or aerosolization (hazardous materials dispersed through an aerosol mechanism) of potentially infectious substances.

In general, PPE shall:

- a. Not permit blood or body fluids to pass through to the employee's clothing, skin or mucous membranes.
- b. Be removed when penetrated by blood or body fluids prior to leaving the work area; if visibly contaminated with blood or body fluids. Items shall be disposed of appropriately.

2. Gloves

Supplies of hypoallergenic gloves or similar alternatives shall be readily accessible in all work areas where the risk of exposure exists.

NOTE: Gloves are available in all nurse's clinics; custodial closets; all classrooms; special education restrooms and changing rooms; in all medical bags maintained by coaches, in the concession stand at the Westerly Public Schools' Stadium; and in all gymnasiums at Westerly Public Schools. In addition, all recess and lunch aides and cafeteria employees are provided with gloves

Gloves shall be worn whenever the employee can reasonably anticipate contact with blood or body fluids, mucous membranes, non-intact skin, and when handling or touching visibly contaminated items or surfaces. Each employee who has routine exposure to blood or body fluids shall carry a pair of gloves in his or her pocket to ensure that protection is immediately available. Disposable single

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use gloves shall be replaced immediately or as soon as feasible if they become contaminated, torn, punctured, or whenever their ability to function as a barrier has been compromised.

Utility gloves shall be washed and decontaminated provided the integrity of the glove has not been compromised prior to reuse. Utility gloves shall be discarded if they begin to peel, become cracked, torn, punctured, or exhibit other signs of deterioration or compromise.

3. Masks, Eye Protection, Face Shields

Masks in combination with eye protection devices such as goggles, glasses with solid side shields, chin length face shields, etc. shall be worn whenever splashed, sprays, splatters or droplets of potentially infectious materials may be generated, and it can be reasonably anticipated that there may be contamination of eyes, nose, or mouth. If masks are used for protection from blood or other potentially infectious materials, they may be worn until they are moist; once wet, masks are no longer effective and shall be changed.

C. Housekeeping Practices

1. The workplace shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition. Environmental surfaces that have been in contact with blood or body fluids shall be cleaned and decontaminated with an approved disinfectant immediately or as soon as feasible after contamination. Work surfaces shall be routinely cleaned and immediately or as soon as feasible after any spill of blood or body fluid.
2. Reusable bins, pails, cans, and similar receptacles which are reasonably likely to become contaminated with blood or other body fluids shall be decontaminated on a regularly scheduled basis.

D. Engineering Controls

Engineering controls to eliminate or reduce occupational exposure shall be examined, maintained, or replaced annually or as necessary, and shall be available and easily accessible for use by employees.

E. Hepatitis B Vaccination

Hepatitis B vaccine shall be available to each employee who is subject to occupational exposure at no cost to the employee after completing the required training and within ten

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working days of employment. After completion of the vaccine, a blood titer shall be taken to ensure appropriate level of immunity.

Each employee who is subject to occupational exposure shall be offered hepatitis b vaccine series within ten days of hire unless the employee has previously received the complete hepatitis b vaccine series, antibody testing has revealed that the employee is immune, or the vaccine is contraindicated for medical reasons. Hepatitis B vaccine shall be available to all currently employed personnel subject to occupational exposure and/or after an exposure incident. Any employee subject to occupational exposure (newly hired or currently employed) who declines to accept the Hepatitis B vaccination shall sign a statement noting that he/she has refused the vaccine and understands the risks of such refusal. If, at any time, the employee should decide to accept the vaccine, it shall be made available.

F. Post-Exposure Evaluation/Follow-up

An employee who suffers an exposure to blood or body fluids shall report such exposure to his/her supervisor who shall complete an Employee Accident Report and refer the employee to Westerly Hospital for post-exposure evaluation and follow up.

G. Education and Training

1. Each employee within ten days of initial hire and at least annually thereafter receives the following training, information, and opportunities during working hours and at no cost to the employee:
 - a. How to obtain a copy of the OSHA regulatory text and an explanation of its contents.
 - b. Explanation of and how to obtain a copy of the Westerly Public Schools' Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan

NOTE: All documents can be found at the District's website:

<https://www.wpsri.org>

- c. Information regarding:
 - Epidemiology and symptoms of bloodborne diseases.
 - Ways in which bloodborne pathogens are transmitted.
 - How to recognize tasks that might result in occupational exposure.

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- Types, selection, proper use, handling, decontamination, and disposal of personal protective equipment.
 - Hepatitis B vaccine, e.g., safety, benefits, efficacy, methods of administration, and availability.
 - How to report an exposure incident and post-exposure evaluation and follow-up.
- d. Opportunity to participate in an interactive question and answer session with the department trainer.
- e. Specific training individualized to the department and the tasks, responsibilities, and potential for the employee's risk of occupational exposure.
- f. The person conducting the training shall be knowledgeable in the subject matter covered by the elements contained in the training program as it relates to the specific workplace that the training will address.
2. There is documentation of training session dates, content, names of instructors, and a list of attendees along with their job titles.
3. Training records are maintained for three years by the Westerly Public Schools Nurse-Teachers.

H. Compliance

All Westerly Public Schools employees shall comply with this plan.

I. Review and Update

This plan shall be reviewed/revised annually and whenever new or modified tasks and procedures which may involve potential occupational exposure by the affected department are implemented.

Attachments: Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan (revised 2009)
 Bloodborne Pathogen Q&A Guide (revised 2009)

Approved: 10-07-09

Adopted: