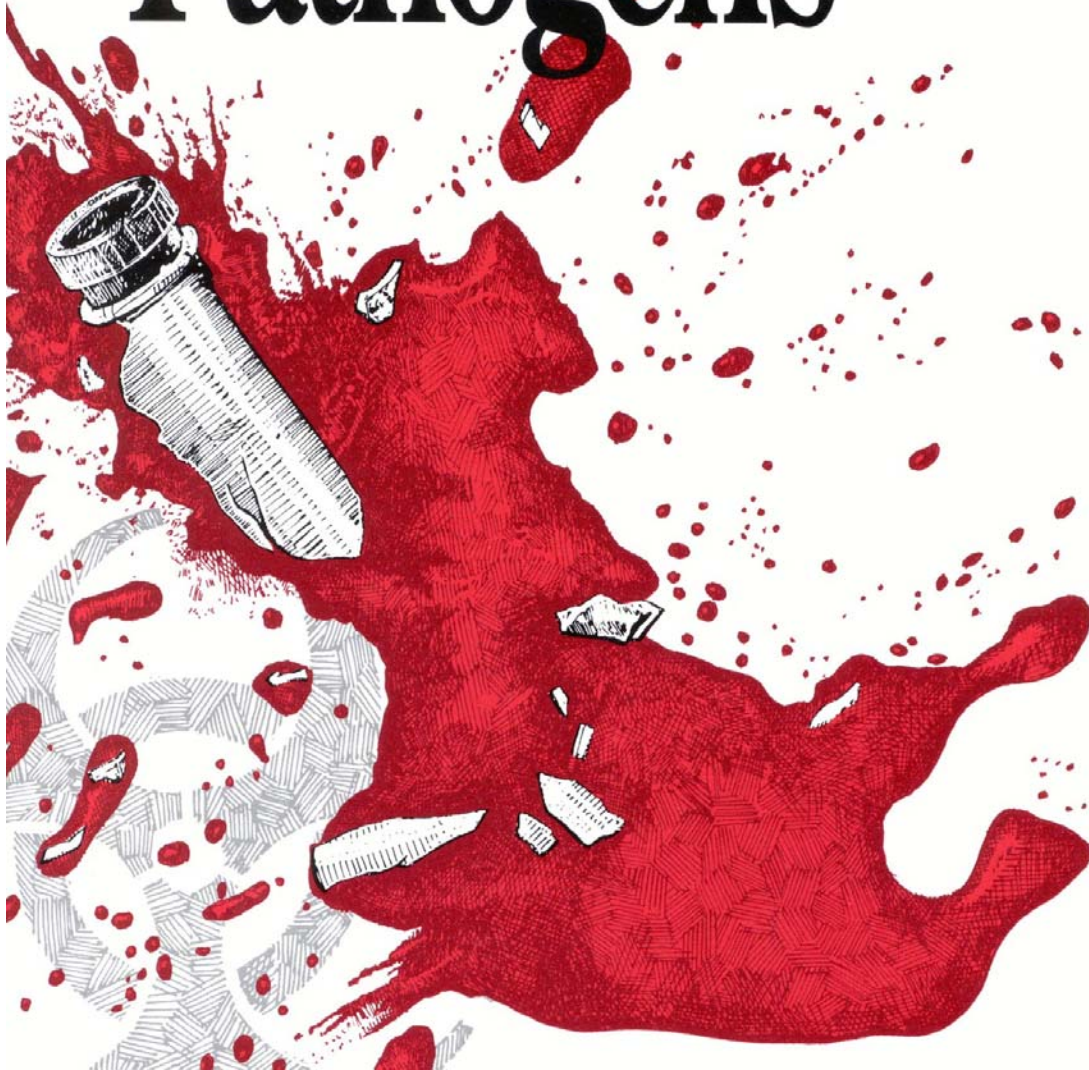


Exposure Control Manual

Bloodborne Pathogens



BIRDVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN

This program was developed to eliminate or minimize employees' exposure to bloodborne pathogens as required by Title 29 Code of Federal Regulation §1910.1030, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Bloodborne Pathogens Standard as specified in Health and Safety Code §81.304. Our goal is the safety and continued good health of our personnel. The provisions of this written exposure control plan will help to assure the maintenance of this goal.

The Exposure Control Plan addresses the following:

- A. Exposure Determination - Determining the risk classification into which each job in the facility best fits and the identification of which specific tasks associated with a job create the risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens.
- B. Implementation of:
 1. Methods of compliance with the Rule covering:
 - a. Universal (Standard) Precautions
 - b. Work Practices
 - Handwashing facilities and general hygiene
 - Waste management including storage and disposal of sharps and potentially infected materials or equipment
 - Decontamination
 - c. Availability and suitability of personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - d. Housekeeping related to equipment, work areas and surfaces, protective coverings, waste and waste disposal containers and laundry.
 2. Hepatitis B vaccination (or waivers)
 - a. Post-exposure follow-up
 - b. Procedures for evaluating circumstances surrounding exposure incidents.
- C. Communication of hazards to employees through training signs and labels.
- D. Record keeping
- E. Definition of terms

Covered Diseases

Among the more common bloodborne diseases that you could be exposed to on the job are non-A hepatitis, non-B hepatitis, hepatitis B and delta hepatitis, as well as syphilis, malaria and human immunodeficiency virus. The two most significant are hepatitis B (HBV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

HBV

Hepatitis means "inflammation of the liver." Hepatitis B virus is the major infectious bloodborne hazard faced by a healthcare worker on the job. It affects approximately 8,700 healthcare

workers a year resulting in more than 400 hospitalizations and 200 deaths. If you become infected with HBV, you may suffer from flu-like symptoms at all. Your blood, saliva and other body fluids may be infectious and you might spread the virus to sexual partners, family members and even unborn infants. There is a vaccine available to reduce or eliminate risk of infection.

HIV

The human immunodeficiency virus attacks the body's immune system causing the disease known as AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. Currently there is no vaccine to prevent this infection. A person infected with HIV may carry the virus for several years without developing symptoms but will eventually develop AIDS. An infected person may suffer from flu-like symptoms, fever, diarrhea and fatigue' and eventually AIDS-related illnesses including neurological problems, cancer and other opportunistic infections easily contracted as the body's ability to fight off illness decreases. Although HIV can be transmitted through contact with blood and some body fluids, it is not transmitted by touching, feeding, or working around patients who carry the disease.

The pathogens, which can transmit these diseases, may be present in the blood and other body fluids such as saliva, semen and vaginal secretions. Pathogens may also be present in cerebrospinal, synovial, pleural, peritoneal, pericardial, amniotic and any other fluids contaminated with blood. Unfixed tissue or organs from living or dead humans, cell tissue or organ cultures and other biological matter from laboratory experiments have also proven to be sources of pathogens.

These pathogens can enter and infect the human body through openings in the skin including cuts, nicks, abrasions, dermatitis or acne. Infection can also result from punctures or cuts caused by sharp contaminated objects such as needles, scalpels, broken glass, exposed ends of dental wires or any other object that can puncture or cut skin. Infection can also gain access to the body through mucous membranes of the eyes, nose and mouth when these areas are touched with contaminated hands or implements. The HBV virus is particularly dangerous since it can survive on dried surfaces at room temperature for at least one week. This means that a surface can be dangerously contaminated without any visible signs if the work areas are not thoroughly cleaned immediately after being contaminated with infectious material.

Risk Reduction

The following pages contain a summary of the OSHA Rule designed to protect healthcare workers from exposure to these serious diseases while performing lifesaving services for patients. The Rule provides guidelines but does not offer protection unless the staff and administration work faithfully to adhere to and improve policies, engineering controls and work procedures used when there is an exposure risk. Know the policies and be alert to protect yourself and your co-workers.