

HANDLING OF BODY FLUIDS POLICY

PURPOSE: TO PREVENT THE TRANSMISSION OF DISEASES THAT SPREAD THROUGH CONTACT WITH BLOOD AND CERTAIN OTHER BODY FLUIDS.

POLICY:

1. UNIVERSAL BLOOD AND BODY FLUID PRECAUTIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED WHENEVER STAFF MEMBERS ANTICIPATE OR EXPERIENCE EXPOSURE TO BLOOD OR ANY OTHER BODY FLUID VISIBLY CONTAMINATED WITH BLOOD.
2. “Universal Precautions” require staff members to treat all blood and other body fluids visibly containing blood as though these fluids are known to be infectious for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and other bloodborne pathogens.
3. “Universal precautions” do NOT apply to saliva, nasal secretions, sweat, tears, urine, feces, and vomitus UNLESS THESE FLUIDS CONTAIN VISIBLE BLOOD.

PROCEDURES:

1. Staff members will use disposable gloves and blood/body fluid cleanup kits when handling body fluids to which universal precautions apply. (See **Blood/Body Fluid Cleanup Kit Policy and Procedure**)
2. Staff members should also use disposable gloves when cleaning up feces.
3. Staff members should avoid direct exposure of his/her mouth, eyes, or other mucous membrane areas to blood or other body fluids from other persons. If such exposure occurs, the affected region should be washed thoroughly with water.
4. Hands and other skin surfaces should be washed immediately and thoroughly with soap and water if they come into contact with blood or other body fluids to which universal precautions apply.
5. Persons with cuts, scratches, or other lesions on the hands or other exposed areas, should wear covering bandages and/or gloves to prevent blood/body fluid contamination of their surroundings, of themselves, or of another person.
6. An incident in which a staff person’s mucous membranes or broken skin comes into contact with another person’s blood, or other body fluids to which universal precautions apply should be reported immediately to the staff person’s supervisor and the Health Services Director.

