

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS AT SCHOOL

Spring Hill School District



Introduction

- Your chance of being exposed to a bloodborne pathogen at a school is low – but it is possible.
- Blood is the most important source of these pathogens.
- Understanding precautions may guard your health and the quality of your future.

Bloodborne Pathogens

- Bloodborne pathogens are disease-causing organisms found in the blood or body fluids of an infected person.
- You usually can't tell if someone is infected just by looking at him or her.
- Virtually anyone could unknowingly harbor a BBP
- In some cases, a bloodborne pathogen may not cause symptoms for up to thirty years.
- But the virus continues to damage the liver –and the individual is contagious.

HIV, HBV, & HCV

- HIV attacks a person's immune system, eventually destroying his or her ability to fight infection. People with HIV may go on to develop AIDS and those infected with HIV may not know they are infected.
- Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C are both viral infections that affect the liver. Those infected may not show symptoms for up to 30 years.
- Common symptoms of Hepatitis B & Hepatitis C:
 - Nausea, fatigue, loss of appetite, fever, headaches, abdominal pain, and jaundice
- Only blood tests can positively identify the Hepatitis B & C
- Hepatitis B vaccine prevents HBV, but there is no vaccine to prevent Hepatitis C and AIDS.

Transmission of BBPs

- BBPs are not spread through the air. You won't get a BBP by working near someone who is infected.
- Most Common Ways BBPs are transmitted:
 - Unprotected sex with infected person
 - Sharing needles or other paraphernalia to inject drugs
 - Infected mothers can pass BBPs to newborn children
 - Touching surfaces or objects contaminated with blood or body fluids, then touching mucous membranes of your eyes, nose or mouth
 - Injuring yourself on a contaminated needle or sharp object that pierces your skin
 - Can be entered through openings of skin: acne, cuts, razor nicks
 - Poor infection-control practices used during tattooing or body piercing
 - Sharing razors or toothbrushes
- HBV can survive outside the body of surfaces and equipment for at least a week and still cause infection
- HCV can survive outside the body on environmental surfaces for at least sixteen hours, but no longer than 4 days

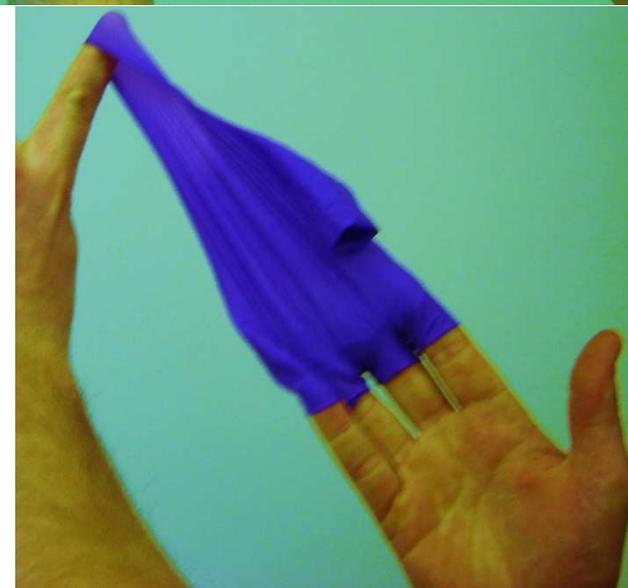
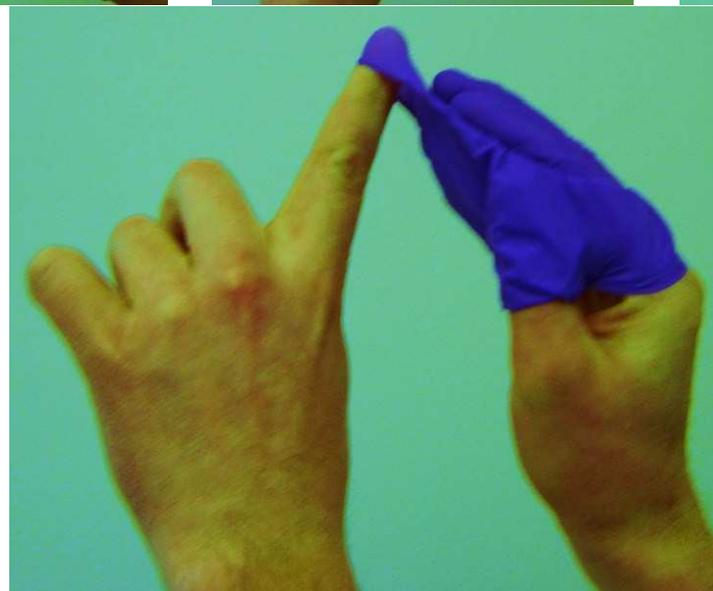
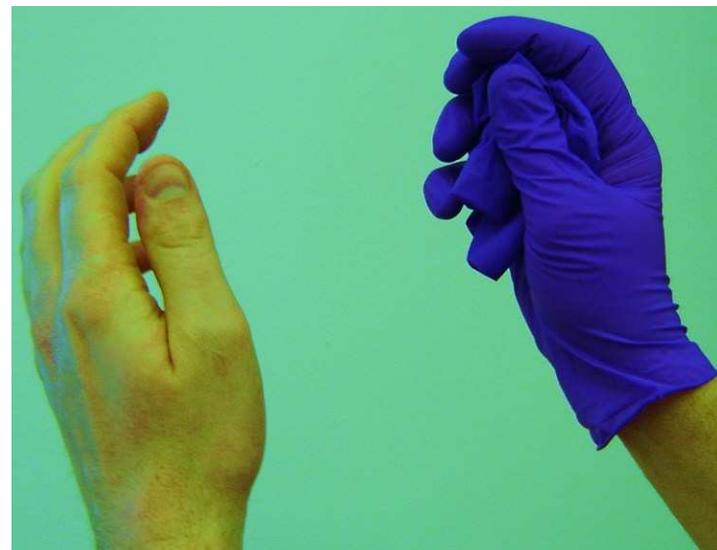
Protecting yourself – Standard Precautions

- Treat ALL blood as if it is contaminated.
- After calling for help, protect yourself with Personal protective equipment
- Use the gauze in our emergency/crisis response kits.
- Always use the disposable gloves in the kit.
- Do not use glove that are damaged or have been used. Damaged or loose-fitting protective equipment will not protect you from BBPs.

Protecting yourself- Bleeding Emergencies

- First reaction may be to help the injured person, but you don't know if the victim is infected with BBPs.
- When Assisting someone who is injured or bleeding Follow these precautions:
 - Send someone to call for emergency personnel
 - For minor cuts, the victim should try to stop the bleeding without your help
 - If victim needs help, put on your protective gear (Gauze, gloves, etc.)
 - Place a barrier between you and the blood if no glove available
 - Know where the first-Aid kit is in the room in case of emergencies

Removing Gloves Properly



Removing Gloves Properly

- After removing gloves, always wash your hands as soon as possible with non-abrasive soap and water.
- If you do not have access to water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Before an emergency occurs know where the emergency/crisis response kit is. The kit should include gloves, gauze, bandages, sanitizer and a first-aid kit.

Hand Hygiene

- CDC Guidelines recommend washing hands:
 - When visibly soiled or contaminated
 - Before eating & drinking
 - Before handling contact lenses or applying makeup
 - After using restroom
 - After blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing
- When washing your hands, use non-abrasive soap
- If handwashing facilities are not available, use antiseptic towelettes or gel sanitizer.

Protection procedures

- If blood or body fluids splash in your eyes or nose:
 - Flush eyes and exposed mucous membranes with large amounts of water
 - Report the incident to your employer or supervisor immediately
 - Do not wait until the end of your shift
 - All exposures do not result in infection, but don't take a chance
 - Time is of the essence in BBP exposures
 - With immediate treatment, you can prevent infection

Cleaning Up

- Always wear gloves to protect yourself.
- If you are uncertain, always call a custodian to clean up bodily fluid or glass.
- When cleaning up sharp objects or glass, use a dustpan and broom.
- Hold garbage bags away from your body when carrying.



If you have a concern about exposure

- Report the incident to the principal.
- Go to the nurse's office.
- You may go for testing, if you'd like.

Reminders

- Treat ALL blood as if it is contaminated.
- Always wear gloves when helping a student when bodily fluids are involved.
- Try to stop bleeding with direct pressure.
- Report all incidents to the principal and nurse.