

**RIDGEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GUIDELINES FOR THE PREVENTION OF DISEASE
TRANSMISSION THROUGH BLOOD AND BODY FLUIDS**

DOES CONTACT WITH BLOOD AND BODY FLUIDS PRESENT A RISK?

The blood and body fluids of all persons may contain potentially infectious agents (germs). The term "body fluids" includes: blood, semen, vaginal secretion, drainage from scrapes and cuts, feces, urine, vomitus, respiratory secretions (e.g., nasal discharge) and saliva. Precautions should be taken to minimize contact with blood and body fluids of other people. Blood borne pathogens can enter your body through breaks in your skin, mucous lining of your mouth, eyes or nose, and a contaminated sharp object that pierces your skin.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO AVOID CONTACT WITH BLOOD AND BODY FLUIDS?

- Knowledge - Read the ECP- Exposure Control Plan.
- When possible, direct skin contact with body fluids should be avoided.
- Disposable gloves are available for your use. Always wash hands after removal.
- Other PPE (personal protective equipment) may be provided, i.e., mask, gown, goggles, shoe covers and CPR devices depending upon exposure potential and/or if splashing is anticipated.
- Tissues and paper towels should be available in each classroom (e.g. runny or bloody nose, lost tooth, etc.)
- Students should be encouraged to administer self-care whenever possible (e.g. pressure to a bloody nose) and to practice good hygiene (i.e. handwashing, use of tissues).
- Surfaces soiled with blood and body fluids should be covered with towels and cleaned properly by custodial staff as soon as possible.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE IF DIRECT SKIN CONTACT OCCURS?

- Should unanticipated skin contact with blood/body fluids occur, hands and affected skin areas should be vigorously washed with soap and water as soon as possible for 15-30 seconds and dried thoroughly with disposable towels.
- If handwashing facilities are not available, use an antiseptic towelette temporarily and wash with soap and running water as soon as possible.
- Report exposure incidents to your supervisor and/or nurse/teacher promptly.