

# **BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS IN THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT**

Nancy Plummer, RN



# DEFINITION

- BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS are viruses, bacteria and other micro-organisms that produce disease.
- They may be present in a person's blood and other body fluids.

# POTENTIAL PATHOGENS

- HEPATITIS B VIRUS (HBV)
- HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV)
- HBV and HIV can be acquired on the job by exposure to a person's blood or body fluids.

# Blood Borne Pathogens Can Enter Your Body By:

- OPEN CUTS/NICKS
- RASH IF SKIN IS BROKEN
- MUCOUS MEMBRANE SPLASH
- NEEDLE PUNCTURE
- HUMAN BITE
- INFECTED NEEDLES/EQUIPMENT

- INDIRECTLY BY TOUCHING A CONTAMINATED SURFACE AND TRANSFERING IT TO YOUR MOUTH , EYES, NOSE OR OPEN SKIN

# *UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS*

TREAT **ALL BLOOD AND BODY FLUIDS** AS IF THEY WERE KNOWN TO BE INFECTED WITH A BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN.



# HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

**WASH YOUR HANDS!**



LATHER WITH SOAP AND RUB YOUR HANDS VIGOROUSLY UNDER RUNNING WATER FOR AT LEAST 15 SECONDS. RINSE AND DRY COMPLETELY WITH A PAPER TOWEL AND TURN THE WATER OFF USING THAT TOWEL.



# WORK PRACTICES

---

- **WASH YOUR HANDS!**
- USE NON-LATEX GLOVES
- COVER ANY BROKEN SKIN
- WHEN DOING CPR USE PROTECTIVE BARRIER
- BE CAREFUL HANDLING SHARPS
- DISPOSE OF SHARPS IN BIOHAZARD CONTAINERS IN THE HEALTH OFFICE



- 
- HAVE BODY FLUID SPILLS CLEANED UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
  - DISPOSE OF INFECTIOUS WASTE IN BIOHAZARD CONTAINER IN HEALTH OFFICE OR IN MAINTENANCE AREA

# EXPOSURE CONTROL PRECAUTIONS

## 1. ENGINEERING CONTROLS

BIOHAZARD DISPOSAL CONTAINERS IN  
HEALTH OFFICE/CUSTODIAL AREA  
SHARPS CONTAINER IN HEALTH  
OFFICE

# EXPOSURE CONTROL PRECAUTIONS

## 2. UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS

EVERY PERSON'S BLOOD AND BODY  
FLUID IS CONSIDERED TO BE  
CONTAMINATED

## 3. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

GLOVES



# EXPOSURE CONTROL PRECAUTIONS

## 4. SAFE WORK PRACTICES

- WASH SKIN IMMEDIATELY AFTER ACCIDENTAL CONTACT
- DON'T EAT, DRINK, OR SMOKE IN WORK AREAS
- COVER CUTS, SCRAPES AND ABRASIONS

# TASKS OR AREAS WITH POTENTIAL OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE

- PROVIDING STUDENT PERSONAL HYGEINE CARE
- CLEANING LAVATORIES
- ASSISTING SICK/INJURED CHILD
- INJURIES RELATED TO ACTIVITIES IN THE CLASSROOM:
  - GYMNASIUM
  - SPORT VENUES
  - CUSTODIAL & MAINTENANCE AREAS

# WHAT TO DO?

- WASH OR FLUSH AFFECTED BODY AREA WITH WATER
- WASH WITH SOAP AND WATER
- REPORT TO SUPERVISOR IMMEDIATELY FOR POST-EXPOSURE FOLLOWUP

# HEPATITIS B VACCINE

VACCINE IMMUNIZATION  
SERIES OF 3 SHOTS

**BOTTOMS UP!!!**



# REFERENCES

- THE LINCOLN SCHOOL DEPARTMENT EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN IS AVAILABLE IN EVERY SCHOOL AND IN THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.





HAVE A SAFE AND HEALTHY  
SCHOOL YEAR  
FROM YOUR NURSE!

