

Clatsop Community College

Code: 3.215
Adopted: 2/93

EXPOSURE CONTROL/BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

Hepatitis B virus is a highly contagious and potentially fatal liver infection. HIV, the virus which causes AIDS, is contagious in certain situations and is apparently always fatal. These viruses are spread via blood and certain other body fluids such as semen, vaginal secretions and the fluids which surround the brain and internal organs. Persons with these viruses often have no symptoms or visible signs of illness. Therefore, staff and students at Clatsop Community College incur some risk of infection and illness each time they are exposed to blood or other potentially infection materials. While the risk due to contact with blood or other body fluids in the College environment is very low, the Board directs that the following policy be followed to reduce the risk of staff/students:

1. College staff/students shall use universally recognized precautions at all times for infection control. Universally recognized precautions require that staff/students approach infection control as if all human blood and body fluids (drainage from cuts, other wounds or serious head injuries; vomitus or sputum containing visible blood) is known to be infectious for Hepatitis B, HIV and/or other bloodborne pathogens (pathogenic microorganisms present in human blood which can cause disease in humans);
2. An Exposure Control Plan is to be implemented to reduce the risk to staff/students by minimizing or eliminating exposure incidents to blood-borne pathogens. This plan is to include the following:
 - a. Identification of (1) staff/students considered to be at risk for potential exposure to blood and other potentially infectious body fluids;
(2) tasks and procedures performed by staff/students in which risk of exposure occurs;
 - b. Engineering and work practice controls, provision and use of personal protective equipment, housekeeping practices and procedures and labeling of hazardous waste materials which serve to minimize the risk of direct contact with blood and other potentially infectious materials;.

(continued)

- c. Assurance of Hepatitis B vaccination for all staff/students having occupational exposure and post-exposure evaluation and follow-up to any staff/student reporting and exposure incident;
 - d. Provision for annual training for all staff/students regarding the Exposure Control Plan, universal infection control procedures, availability and efficacy of Hepatitis B vaccination and exposure incident follow-up procedures;
 - e. Record-keeping procedures to be followed.
3. A procedure for handling and disposing of contaminated fluids is to be distributed to staff/students and posted with each first aid kit to minimize the risk of exposure for all staff/students who may have incidental contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials.

END OF POLICY

Legal References:

OAR Chapter 437, Division 1, Subdivision Z (Toxic & Hazardous Substances)