



Standard Precautions in the School Setting

Alabama State Department of Education
Prevention and Support Services
Alabama Health Services

Purpose of training

- To reduce the transmission of communicable disease and facilitate consistent use of STANDARD PRECAUTIONS
 - > Increase attendance, decrease the number of absences in schools.
 - > Decrease sick leave days taken by teachers, nurses and staff.

Content:

Employees responsibility:

Preventive exposure to infections agents

- Handwashing
- Protective barriers
- Cleaning contaminated surfaces
- Proper disposal of contaminated materials
- Immediately report an exposure incident

Standard Precautions: Blood Borne Pathogens

- Standard Precautions should be implemented to prevent exposure to blood borne pathogens such as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and Hepatitis C virus (HCV).
- Along with other communicable pathogens which may cause illness:

The appearance of someone infected?

- Infected people may not look "sick"
- Infected people may not know they are infected
- Infected people may not disclose that they are infected (Confidentiality and Privacy)

CONSIDER THE BLOOD AND BODY FLUIDS OF EVERYONE TO BE POTENTIALLY INFECTIONS

- This approach is recommended because 30 to 80 percent of people with viral hepatitis and other infectious diseases have no symptoms and may be unaware they have a disease.
- This approach is helpful to everyone in every area of their life, to decrease their chances of infection
- When standard precautions are used in all aspects of daily life, it helps prevent the spread of infections within the community.

Prevention:

- Proper hand hygiene technique is the single most important procedure for helping to prevent the spread of infection
- Personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, should be worn anytime the employee anticipates he/she may come in contact with blood or other body fluids.

Handwashing

- Wet hands with running water (warm or cold)
- Rub hands together producing friction, lather with soap. (Soap suspends easily removable soil and microorganisms.)
- Remember to scrub between fingers, knuckles, backs of hands, nails and around jewelry.
- Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds (Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice)
- Rinse hands well under clean running water, while holding finger down toward sink
- Dry hands using a disposable paper towel
- Use paper towel to turn off the faucet
- If in public area, after washing hands, we can use a paper towel to open the door and exit
- Throw paper towels and any other dirty items in the appropriate waste containers.

IS IT REALLY THAT SIMPLE? (An experiment using a black light may show surprising results!)

Prevent exposure to body fluids

- Wear gloves if you anticipate or potentially may contact blood and/or body fluids, including blood-containing tissue or injury discharges. Persons with an allergy to latex should not wear latex gloves. (Check with your school nurse, regarding other glove alternatives.)
- Pick up the spill using disposable towels and tools that can be disinfected. Be careful not to splash any of the contaminated materials. (If possible ask the person to hold the towel or item to collect the fluid, until you are able to put on gloves.)
- Utilize single-use disposable gloves and discard them into a hands-free, covered receptacle that is lined with a leak-proof plastic bag that can be securely tied or sealed when removed from the trash.
- Avoid handling the contaminated gloves. Wash your hands immediately, after removing contaminated gloves.

Consistently Wear gloves:

- When in contact with blood or other body fluids is anticipated or may potentially occur
- When open sores and cuts are present
- When cleaning items that may be contaminated with body fluids such as blood, urine and vomit

Wear gloves

- When having contact with blood, other potentially infectious material, mucous membranes, and non-intact skin
- When handling contaminated substances or surfaces
- When anticipating contact with contaminated substances or surface
- Protect eyes, face and clothing from potential splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, and secretions (i.e. nursing procedures such as suctioning, tracheostomy care)



Wear gloves:



- When open sores and cuts are present
- When cleaning items that may be contaminated with body fluids such as blood, urine and vomit