
BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

While normal Library operations are not likely to involve circumstances exposing employees to bloodborne pathogens, the Library complies with Illinois Department of Labor regulations and therefore the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations relating to occupational exposures to bloodborne pathogens.

EXPOSURE DETERMINATION

No particular job classification of the Library has occupational exposure (meaning “reasonably anticipated...contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from the performance of an employee’s duties”), however, emergencies may occur with staff or patrons to which Library employees in all classifications may be called upon to respond with assistance.

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS

All potential circumstances of exposure must be considered by the Library and its employees to protect against exposures. Hepatitis B (HBV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and other bloodborne pathogens found in human blood and other body fluids cause life-threatening diseases. In emergency or other such circumstances, when contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials may result, the Library’s approach to infection control requires all human blood and body fluids to be treated as if known to be infectious for HIV, HBV, and other bloodborne pathogens. Engineering and work practice controls shall be used to eliminate or minimize employee exposures, and if a possibility of exposure remains, personal protective equipment shall also be used.

EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN

At any time within the Library environment that human blood, human body fluids, or other potentially infectious materials are presented, the area contaminated shall be immediately cordoned off and quarantined, even if the entire Library must be closed to accomplish this completely. Personal protection clothing, such as gloves, gowns, masks, etc., are provided and used in the cleanup and safe disposal of contaminated waste such as diapers or blood-tinged materials (e.g. Band-Aids, gauze, cotton, clothing, etc.). If advisable, a professional hazardous/contaminated cleanup firm may be contacted and retained for complete cleanup and decontamination. The quarantine shall be effective until complete cleanup and disposal is obtained. Hand-washing facilities are provided by the Library and must be used as soon as feasible, including following the removal of personal protective equipment. A complete record of all incidents, exposures, cleanup, and disposals will be kept as required by the regulations and maintained by the Maintenance department.

TRAINING AND IMMUNIZATIONS

The Library shall provide annual training/educational programs for maintenance and Person in Charge (PIC) employees. Any employee who has an occupational exposure shall be offered, at no charge, the hepatitis B vaccine series, in accordance with the regulations. Following the report of an exposure incident, the Library will make immediately available to the exposed employee or employees a confidential medical evaluation and follow-up as provided in the regulations.