

Policy on Blood-borne Pathogens for Religious Education



Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie
2001

Revised: May, 2012

EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN

FOR BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS

In educational settings, it may not be known who carries an infectious disease. Because pathogens such as Hepatitis B and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV causes AIDS) are carried through the bloodstream, each contact with human blood or other body fluids represents a risk of disease. In an effort to minimize exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials by catechists (includes volunteers and employees), the Department of Religious Education sets forth the following policy, effective 1/01/2001.

I. POTENTIALLY INFECTIOUS MATERIALS

These would include blood and other body fluids such as feces, a large amount of nasal secretions, sputum (saliva mixed with mucus from the breathing passages), urine, and vomitus containing visible blood.

II. OBSERVATION OF UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS

A. Avoid direct contact with any body fluid. Disposable gloves made of an impenetrable material (e.g. latex, or non-latex if allergic) must be worn whenever there is anticipation of direct hand contact with body fluids (e.g. treating bloody noses or scrapes, handling clothes soiled by incontinence, cleaning small spills [vomit, urine, blood, etc.] by hand).

N.B. Programs would be well advised to consider the purchase of latex-free gloves to avoid serious allergic reactions from people who are latex sensitive.

B. Protective gloves should be removed by pulling from the wrist and turning the glove inside out. Gloves should be disposed of after one use; never wash and re-use.

N.B. After removal of protective gloves, hands should be washed thoroughly with soap and hot water.

C. In the event that an unplanned and unanticipated skin contact with any body fluids should occur where gloves are not immediately available (e.g. when wiping a runny nose, applying pressure to a bleeding injury), hands and other affected skin areas should be thoroughly washed with soap and water.

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III. DISPOSAL OF INFECTIOUS WASTE

To be considered infectious waste, items must be *saturated or dripping with blood/body fluids*.

- A. If this amount of blood is present in an emergency situation, it is recommended that an ambulance, paramedic, or other professional medical unit be called. These professionals will take and dispose of any infectious waste that is present due to a serious accident.
- B. Gauze pads, band-aids, tissues, etc., stained with drops or small amounts of body fluid are **not** considered infectious waste; they should be double bagged in plastic and disposed of in a normal manner.
- C. Body fluids containing blood, such as vomitus, must be disposed of in a red biohazard bag. (Try to ascertain if red color in the body fluid is due to something the person ingested, such as red beverage, jello, fruit snack etc. If in doubt, treat as infectious waste.) For disposal of red biohazard bag, please call the Diocesan Director of Religious Education for instructions.
- D. Surfaces contaminated with spilled or leaked body fluids will be cleaned with an industrial strength detergent to remove visible soil and disinfected by rinsing for at least 3 minutes with a 1:10 solution of bleach.

IV. REPORTING OF INCIDENT

- A. Any incident involving the presence of blood should be reported to the parish Religious Education leader immediately.
- B. Parents of the student involved should be notified immediately in the case of a serious incident or as soon as possible in the case of a minor incident.

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IV. REPORTING OF INCIDENT, CONT'D

- C. The Religious Education Leader will complete the **Potential Exposure Incident Report**. (It is not necessary to complete a form for an incident which simply required washing with soap and water and applying a bandaid or use of a tissue.) A copy of this report should be given to the catechist involved, to the parents of the student involved, and a copy placed in the catechist's personnel file.
- N.B.** This form must be sent to the Diocesan Director of Religious Education in the event that exposure was not controlled by universal precautions, i.e., no gloves were used, splattering of blood or mucus occurred, etc.
- D. In the case of unprotected exposure, it is recommended that the person exposed contact their physician immediately to determine the necessity of hepatitis injections.

V. PARISH PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Leaders and catechists are to be inserviced regarding the policy for Blood-borne Pathogens. A record of this inservice is to be included in the appropriate personnel file, using the Blood-borne Pathogen Inservice Form.
- B. Protective (latex or other) gloves are to be provided for each catechist and stored in every room used as a Religious Education area (e.g desk, cupboard, supply basket, etc.) and are to be immediately accessible to the catechist.
- C. Body Fluid Clean-Up Kits* must be available in each area where students gather for Religious Education, i.e., school, church hall, center, etc.

* see next page for additional information

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V. PARISH PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES, CONT'D

- D. Volunteers who accompany students on field trips, retreats, etc., who have not been inserviced as a catechist, will be instructed about the precautions to be taken upon exposure to body fluids as outlined in this policy. Protective gloves will be provided to such volunteers. It is recommended that a spill kit be included in the first aid supplies which will accompany the event. Such volunteers will sign an inservice form indicating they have been inserviced.
1. Programs may wish to provide a "home-made" kit consisting of protective gloves, antibacterial, handwipes, Band-Aids, and instructions in a locking plastic bag for such volunteers

*

Body Fluid Clean-Up Kits are sold by:

Masune First Aid & Safety Company

490 Fillmore Ave.

Tonawanda, New York 14150

1-800-831-0894

Fax - 800-222-1934

URL - <http://www.masune.com> (Find "Biohazard Response" on the left then pick "Spill Response Kits")

or

American First Aid

1-800-327-2704

URL - <http://www.americanfirstaid.com>

Kits typically include: disposable latex gloves, pick-up scoop with scraper, antimicrobial handwipe, germicidal disinfectant wipe, large absorbent wiper towel, bio-hazard disposal bag, easy to follow universal precaution instructions.

POTENTIAL EXPOSURE INCIDENT REPORT

A copy of this form should be given to the catechist involved, to the parents of the student involved and a copy placed in the catechist's personnel file. If universal precautions were not used or were used and failed, a copy of this report must also be sent to the Diocesan Director of Religious Education.

**To be completed by person experiencing exposure
Please print**

DATE COMPLETED _____

YOUR NAME _____ SS NUMBER _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ TITLE _____

WERE YOU PREVIOUSLY VACCINATED FOR HEPATITIS B? YES _____ NO _____

DATE OF EXPOSURE _____ TIME OF EXPOSURE _____ AM _____ PM _____

LOCATION OF INCIDENT BE SPECIFIC: _____

NATURE OF INCIDENT (bloody nose, accident, etc.) BE SPECIFIC:

WERE YOU WEARING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (gloves)? YES _____ NO _____

DID THE GLOVES LEAK? YES _____ NO _____

IF YES, EXPLAIN HOW MUCH:

Parish Religious Education Leader was contacted: _____ YES _____ NO _____
When: _____
Why: _____

WHAT, IF ANY, BODY FLUID(S) WERE YOU EXPOSED TO (BLOOD OR OTHER POTENTIALLY INFECTIOUS MATERIAL)? BE SPECIFIC:

WHAT PARTS OF YOUR BODY BECAME EXPOSED? BE SPECIFIC:

ESTIMATE THE SIZE OF THE AREA OF YOUR BODY THAT WAS EXPOSED.

FOR HOW LONG?

DID YOU RECEIVE ANY MEDICAL ATTENTION? YES _____ NO _____

IF YES, WHERE? _____ WHEN? _____

BY WHOM? _____

NAME OF INJURED PERSON #1 _____ **AGE OR GRADE** _____

DID YOU TREAT THE PERSON DIRECTLY? YES _____ NO _____

IF YES, WHAT TREATMENT DID YOU PROVIDE? BE SPECIFIC:

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION _____

NAME OF INJURED PERSON #2 _____ **AGE OR GRADE** _____

DID YOU TREAT THE PERSON DIRECTLY? YES _____ NO _____

IF YES, WHAT TREATMENT DID YOU PROVIDE? BE SPECIFIC:

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION _____

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BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGEN INSERVICE FORM

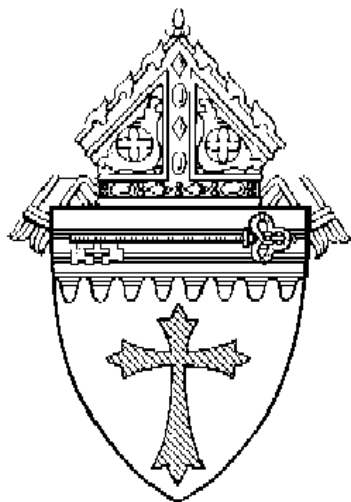
This is to certify that _____ has completed inservice training on the topic of exposure to blood-borne pathogens.

Date of In-Service: _____

Signature of person being inserviced: _____

Check one: Catechist ☐ Other ☐

Your signature on this form is an official statement that you have been in-serviced on and understand your responsibilities in relation to the Diocese of Erie Blood-borne Pathogen policy.



Training Session conducted by

Title