

# FORT LA BOSSE SCHOOL DIVISION

TITLE - **HANDLING BODILY FLUIDS\***

POLICY - **EBBAA\***

Approval Date - 17/07/90

Cross Reference -

Resolution # - 27/18

Legal Reference -

Last Reviewed - 12/02/18

Some viral infections are spread by intimate contact with contaminated blood/body fluids, often through exposure to an asymptomatic ("silent") carrier. While the probability of transmission is much higher by direct inoculation, there is a remote possibility of acquiring some infections by indirect exposure to infected material through cuts, scratches, or other minute breaks in the skin or mucous membranes. As a result, it is prudent to routinely incorporate precautionary measures, when handling any circumstances that require the administration of emergency first aid or the clean up of blood/body fluids. The procedures recommended are as follows:

**Administering First Aid:** In an emergency situation, preliminary first aid should be administered.

1. When possible, disposable gloves should be worn to avoid exposure to open sores and/or broken mucous membranes.
2. When possible, disposable materials should be used.
3. As soon as possible after administering first aid, the individual(s) providing the first aid should wash with hot soapy water. This is especially important when the person administering first aid was not able to wear disposable gloves and was in direct contact with blood/body fluids. In this case the wash period should be at least 5 minutes in duration.
4. Discard gloves and materials as outlined below.

**Disinfecting of Solid Objects and Surfaces:** Objects or surfaces which are visibly soiled with blood/body fluids (mucous, semen, urine, stool or vomit) of ANY person should be properly cleaned and disinfected.

1. The person doing the cleaning should wear disposable gloves. If splattering may be a problem then disposable gown, mask and goggles should be considered.
2. Disposable materials should be used, where possible (e.g. paper towels).
3. The surface or object should initially be cleaned with hot soapy water.
4. Next, the surface or object should be disinfected with a freshly prepared 1:10 dilution of Javex (or equivalent household bleach) in water.
5. If a mop is used, it should be rinsed in disinfectant (1:10 Javex in water, or equivalent household bleach) before being used again.
6. Discard disposable gloves and materials as outlined on the next page.

**C. Treatment of Soiled Materials:**

Clothing and Linens

When visibly soiled with blood/body fluids, these should:

- i) Be placed in plastic bags for transfer to laundry facilities, and
- ii) The bags should be properly marked as containing contaminated materials.

At the laundry facility, personnel should:

- i) Wear disposable gloves when rinsing,
- ii) Rinse the materials in 1:10 Javex (or equivalent household bleach) in cold water, then
- iii) Machine-wash the materials in hot water using ordinary household laundry detergent.

Disposable Articles

All disposable articles soiled with blood/body fluids should be placed in a plastic bag, closed with a twist tie, then placed in a regular garbage container.

Adapted from Canada Diseases Weekly Report, April 19, 1986.

