

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS

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All human blood, blood products, tissue, and many body fluids must be handled as if infected! This includes human blood or blood-based products, human clinical samples other than urine or saliva, human cells and human cell lines, unfixed human tissues, and water containing human waste.

Persons who handle these potentially infectious materials and who are at risk of occupational exposure must be vaccinated against the Hepatitis B virus (HBV) or sign the prescribed declination.

Fresh animal tissues, blood, and body fluids should be recognized as potential sources of zoonotic disease.

Engineering controls, such as mechanical pipettors and biosafety cabinets, are the primary means of exposure prevention.

Work practice controls, like not recapping needles and using a broom/dustpan to clean up broken glass, are a secondary method of exposure prevention. Don't use needles unless absolutely necessary.

Personal protective equipment provides additional means of preventing exposure. Latex gloves provide very good protection and should be worn when handling potentially infectious materials and dexterity is required. Do not re-use or wash disposable gloves: replace them. Utility gloves may be decontaminated between uses if they are intact – not torn or cracked. ***If gloves are needed for your work and you cannot wear latex, see your supervisor for alternatives.***

Wash your hands immediately after removing gloves. If you have been exposed to potentially infectious materials, even through protective clothing, wash the affected area immediately.

Wear goggles and a mask, a face shield or mask/shield when performing procedures that may splash or splatter.

Be very careful to perform procedures so as not to generate aerosols, e.g., cap centrifuge tubes, cover rubber stoppers with alcohol-soaked gauze when removing.

Dispose of sharps in sharps containers. (3/4 full).

Dispose of other potentially infectious waste in a red bag.

Label materials and storage areas with the Biohazard symbol.

Clean and disinfect your work area with when you are finished or at the end of the day. A one percent (minimum) solution of fresh bleach in water is adequate for most types of work.

Decontaminate equipment before removing it from the area or submitting it for service. (required)

Report any exposure to your supervisor immediately. Seek medical attention for parenteral, mucous membrane or non-intact skin contact.

Wash your hands before leaving the work area.

DO NOT EAT, DRINK, SMOKE, USE TOBACCO PRODUCTS, APPLY COSMETICS/LIP BALM OR HANDLE CONTACT LENSES IN THE LAB OR AROUND POTENTIALLY INFECTIOUS MATERIALS!