

Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan
Dumas Independent School District**DBB-R****Part I: Purpose**

The purpose of this exposure control plan is to eliminate or minimize work-related exposure to bloodborne pathogens, particularly the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Hepatitis B Virus (HBV). Knowledge about transmission of HIV and HBV and other disease-causing organisms is essential for personal protection and the prevention of the spread of illness in the school setting.

This exposure control plan is adopted to implement the Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan required in Texas HB 2085, and the subsequent Health and Safety Codes (81.304) affected by this act.

Part II: Exposure Determination

The District Bloodborne Pathogens Committee will determine which job classifications, tasks, or procedures have the potential for occupational exposure. The committee will make recommendations to the Administration regarding the criteria for offering the Hepatitis B vaccine to employees.

Committee:

The following individuals will be permanent members of the committee:

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Health Services Coordinator
Athletic Trainer
Special Education Director
Chief of Police

The following members will serve a three-year appointment, upon recommendation of the permanent committee members.

One school nurse
One teacher from Life Skills
One counselor
One custodian
One cafeteria representative

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed guidelines to evaluate occupational exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials and to offer prevention strategies. An exposure determination is made without regard to the use of personal protective

equipment since employees are considered to be exposed even if they wear personal protective equipment.

It should be noted that the Texas standards (Health and Safety Code 81.304) apply to governmental units that employ persons who provide services that may have a risk of exposure to blood or other material containing bloodborne pathogens in connection with exposure to sharps. School districts, in most cases, employ only a small number of employees whose job descriptions place them at risk for injury through exposure to sharps; however, certain safeguards for all employees at risk for exposure to bloodborne pathogens are deemed appropriate.

Pre-Vaccination Plan

Employees deemed at potential risk for occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens by job description or assignment will be offered the Hepatitis B vaccine, at no cost to the employee. The vaccine is offered after bloodborne pathogens training.

Employees who decline the Hepatitis B vaccine sign a declination statement.

Employees who initially decline the vaccine but who later elect to receive it may then have the vaccine provided at no cost.

Job Classifications with Potential for Occupational Exposure:

1. Job classifications in which all employees have potential for occupational exposure:
 - School nurses
 - Athletic trainers
 - Police officers
2. Job classifications in which some employees may have potential for occupational exposure:
 - Special education teachers and classroom assistants
 - Coaches

Some tasks and procedures in which occupational exposure to body fluids may occur and that are performed by the employees in the job classifications listed above are:

- Rendering first aid on a regular basis according to job description
- Rendering personal care to students on a regular basis, such as toileting, changing diapers and menstrual pads, feeding, suctioning
- Exposure because of aggressive behaviors (biting, scratching, use of weapons, etc.) of students

Part III: Implementation of the Exposure Control Plan

The Exposure Control Plan shall be reviewed and updated annually. Whenever necessary, it shall reflect the new or modified tasks or procedures which affect occupational exposure, and new or revised employee positions with occupational exposure.

A copy of the Exposure Control Plan shall be accessible for review by all employees. Copies will be kept in the nurse's office, principal's office, operations director's office, and in the food service director's office.

Training

Employees will receive mandatory in-service annually about:

- Bloodborne Pathogen Control (Chapter 96 of the Texas Health and Safety Code)
- OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Final Rule
- Epidemiology and symptoms of bloodborne diseases
- Modes of transmission of bloodborne pathogens
- District's Control Plan – Pre and post exposure
 - Points of the plan
 - Lines of responsibility
 - Implementation
 - How to access plan
- Procedures which might cause exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials at this facility
- Methods used in the district to control exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials
- Hepatitis B vaccine program in the district
- Procedures to follow in an emergency involving blood or other potentially infectious materials
- Procedures to follow if an exposure incident occurs
- Post exposure evaluation and follow-up
- Opportunity for questions

Training will be offered annually, prior to the first day of class. Individuals hired after the scheduled training will be in-serviced by the school nurse on campus. All employees also receive annual refresher training. This training is to be conducted within one year of the employee's previous training.

Rosters of attendance will be kept in the principal's office.

As a separate issue, students who elect to participate in sports as athletic training assistants or a team manager must be made aware of the potential dangers of bloodborne pathogens and methods for preventing contamination.

Letters will be sent to parents of students involved in voluntary activities, with information about bloodborne pathogens and measures to reduce occupational exposure and risk.

All information on the prevention and spread of bloodborne pathogens should be delivered to these students prior to participation in the designated activities.

General Information

Universal precautions are observed to prevent contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials. All blood or other potentially infectious materials are considered infectious regardless of the perceived status of the source individual.

Work Practice Controls

Work practice controls are used to eliminate or minimize employee exposures. The District, at the appropriate site needed by the employee, will provide:

- Hand washing facilities stocked with soap and disposable towels. When hand washing facilities are not available, antiseptic towelettes or a waterless disinfectant will be provided. If these alternatives are used, then the hands are to be washed with soap and water as soon as possible.
- Disposable sharps containers, which are puncture resistant, labeled and leak proof on sides and bottoms. The school nurse will be responsible for ordering and disposing of filled containers.
- Personal protective equipment deemed appropriate for the task or procedure, as: disposable gloves, gowns and masks.

Housekeeping

The District shall ensure that the worksite is maintained in a clean and sanitary condition. The District shall implement an appropriate written schedule for cleaning and method of decontamination based upon the location within the facility, the type of surface to be cleaned, type of soil present, and tasks or procedures being performed in the area.

Any broken glassware that may be contaminated is not picked up directly with the hands.

Laundry

Although soiled clothing and linen may be contaminated with pathogenic microorganisms, the risk of disease transmission is negligible if it is handled, transported and laundered in a manner that avoids transfer of microorganisms to personnel and environments. Rather than rigid rules and regulations, hygienic and commonsense storage and cleaning of soiled clothing is recommended.

Part IV: Post Exposure Plan

When an employee incurs an exposure incident, it should be reported immediately to the principal and the school nurse.

An exposure incident is when an employee has direct contact with blood or body fluids containing blood, semen, or vaginal secretions through a needle stick, bite, eye-splash, or a cut.

The school nurse will provide first aid treatment and document the incident on the Exposure Documentation Form. If the exposure is from a contaminated sharp, the Contaminated Sharps Injury Reporting Form will be completed and sent to the Texas Department of Health regional office in Canyon. A copy of the forms will be sent to the Coordinator of Health Services.

The employee will be encouraged to see his personal physician for a medical evaluation. The medical evaluation will be paid through Workers' Comp. A Workers' Comp form can be obtained in the office at each school. This form should be completed and sent to Jan Floyd at the Administration Building. All records related to the incident will be maintained in a confidential manner.

Documentation of Hepatitis B Immunization

Please check one of the following:

_____ I have received a series of three Hepatitis B vaccines on the dates listed below:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

_____ I have received a series of three Hepatitis B vaccines, but I do not know the dates.

_____ I choose not to receive the hepatitis B vaccine. I understand that due to my occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials, I may be at risk of acquiring hepatitis B infection. I have been given the opportunity to be vaccinated with hepatitis B vaccine, at no charge to myself. However, I decline vaccination at this time. I understand that by declining this vaccine, I continue to be at risk of acquiring hepatitis B, a serious disease. If, in the future, I continue to have occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials and I want to be vaccinated with hepatitis B vaccine, I can receive the vaccination series at no charge to myself.

Signature

Date