Bloodborne Pathogen Facts

The University of New Orleans is committed to providing a safe and healthful work environment for our entire staff. In pursuit of this endeavor, An Exposure Control Plan (ECP) has been developed in accordance with the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard. The purpose of this ECP includes; elimination or minimization of employee occupational exposure to blood or certain other body fluids, compliance with the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard, and the protection of the Students, Faculty, Staff, and Visitors of UNO. The document can be read in its entirety in the UNO Loss Prevention Manual, Part I, General Safety Section, Section N, Bloodborne Pathogen Program.

Definitions:

Bloodborne Pathogen: Microorganisms present in human blood that cause disease in humans. These include, but are not limited to Hepatitis B virus (HBV), Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Universal Precautions: An infection control approach whereby all human blood and certain body fluids are treated as if they were known to be infectious for HIV, HBV, or other Bloodborne pathogen.

Who and What:

This ECP will cover employees who, as a result of doing their jobs, could come in contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials through the eyes, skin, mucous membrane, or under the skin by means of a needle stick, cut or human bite.

These employees include health care workers, housekeeping or laundry personnel in health care facilities, police officers, emergency medical providers, firefighters, and employees of correctional facilities and funeral homes.

Potentially infectious materials include the following; blood, semen and vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluids, pleural fluids (around the lungs), peritoneal fluid (around the abdomen), amniotic fluid (surrounding a fetus).

Precautions:

The program stresses using Universal Precautions and work practices such as regular hand washing, prevention of needle sticks and minimizing of splashing or spraying of blood. It also requires engineering controls such as eliminating hazards at their source including the use of autoclaves and containers for used sharps.

Personal protective equipment must be used so as not to allow blood or other potentially infectious matter to pass through it and to the employee’s clothes, skin, eyes, or mouth.

If, while at work at the University of New Orleans, you come in contact with any bodily fluids, please DO NOT touch them. Please contact the housekeeping department of the building that you are in and let them clean and disinfect the contaminated area.

If you have any questions please call David Richardson in the Safety Office at x 36670 or Jerry Bounds in the Risk Management Office at x 36498