



Communicable Diseases

1. Introduction

The Park West School Division recognizes the right of each student to a public education in the least restrictive environment. The Park West School Division also recognizes its responsibility to protect the health and safety, rights and privacy of the entire school community regarding transmission of bloodborne diseases.

Diseases known to be transmitted by blood and body fluids are the following: HIV/AIDS (acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, Hepatitis B (also known as Hep B, HBV, and Serum Hepatitis) and Hepatitis C (also known as Hep C, HCV).

2. Students – Educational Placement

Students infected with HIV and /or other bloodborne disease shall have the right to attend regular classes, including community placements, and shall be given equal access to and considered eligible for all rights, privileges and services available to all students.

Where the physical condition or behaviour of the student poses a health risk, alternative arrangements for instruction/placement shall be provided. Decisions regarding the alternative arrangements for instruction/placement shall be determined on a case-by-case basis and shall include consultation with the student's parents, the person designated by the school division as responsible for coordinating education services to students with special needs and others as deemed appropriate. The Superintendent shall approve the final arrangements made.

3. Staff

Where the physical condition or behaviour of any employee poses a health risk, or the employee becomes too ill to continue employment, the employee shall have access to all regular employee benefits as described in the applicable collective agreement, including sick leave, long-term disability and medical benefits.

4. Confidentiality

Confidentiality, with regard to information about students or employees with HIV infection, shall be maintained at all times. The dissemination of any information regarding a student or employee with HIV infection shall be restricted to those persons who have been identified as requiring the information to assure proper care and support to the infected person, and to identify situations where potential for transmission may



increase. There shall be no release of information without the consent of the parents or legal guardian or the employee involved.

5. Prevention and Precautions

In the best interest of all students and staff:

- a) Information and education is provided for students, employees and parents/guardians, on the transmission of bloodborne diseases.
- b) An education program about HIV for all students grades 5 – S4, is provided based on the curriculum materials developed by Manitoba Education.
- c) Precautions should be adopted by all staff concerning all blood and body fluids capable of transmitting bloodborne diseases. In cases where students are known to have health conditions where contact with blood and/or body fluids is likely, i.e., recurrent nosebleeds, staff in schools and community work sites should be made aware of the condition, advised of appropriate precautions, and provided with personal protective equipment as described in the exhibit under this administrative procedure.

To prevent the transmission of bloodborne germs in the school setting, the best approach is to treat all body fluids of every person as potentially infectious. These precautions are intended to supplement existing routine infection control procedures and do not address transmission of non-bloodborne germs.

The following precautions should be taken to avoid the spread of germs when anyone comes in contact with blood or body fluids from other persons:

Hygiene and Sanitation

Hand washing is the single most effective way to prevent the transmission of most communicable diseases. In order to prevent the transmission of blood borne germs, hand washing is necessary:

- after a glove leak or tear;
- after removing gloves;
- after handling materials that may be contaminated with blood or fluids capable of transmitting bloodborne germs.

Hands should be washed by rubbing vigorously for at least 10 to 15 seconds with soap and water, and should be dried with a paper towel or air dryer.

Equipment (including mops) and surfaces contaminated with blood or fluids capable of transmitting blood borne pathogens should be cleaned thoroughly and then disinfected with bleach solution (1:10).



Waste

Disposable sharp items such as lancets, needles, or broken glass, if contaminated with blood, should be carefully handled and placed by the user in an approved puncture-resistant container. Suctioned fluids, excretions and secretions may be carefully poured down drains connected to the sanitary sewer system.

Disposable items such as paper towels used to clean up blood or fluids capable of transmitting blood borne pathogens should be placed in a plastic bag and disposed of with the regular garbage.

Clothing and linen visibly soiled with blood or body fluids should be rinsed in cold water, placed in a plastic bag and sent home.

Personal Protective Equipment

Appropriate protective equipment should be worn for anticipated exposure to blood or body fluids capable of transmitting blood borne pathogens.

Disposable Gloves

- Disposable gloves made of a material such as vinyl or latex, when intact, provide an adequate barrier to blood borne pathogens.
- Disposable gloves should be worn for all procedures that may involve direct contact of skin or mucous membranes with blood or body fluids capable of transmitting blood borne pathogens.
- Disposable gloves must be changed immediately after use and after contact with each individual before care is provided to another.
- Disposable gloves must be discarded and not washed or disinfected.

Accidental Exposure

A significant exposure is defined as an injury during which one person's blood or body fluid containing blood comes in contact with someone else's broken, punctured or chapped skin, or mucous membranes. Injuries of concern involve needle sticks and other sharps, as well as splashes and bites.

If a significant exposure occurs in the school/work setting:

A) Provide first aid:

- encourage bleeding at the injury site;
- wash area well with soap and warm water;
- for splashes to the eye(s) wash the eye out well with cold water.



B) Report to:

- the school administrator, who will complete a Student Accident Form or an Employee Accident and Workers' Compensation Report respectively.
- Public Health personnel for consultation regarding appropriate management and any treatment required.
- your primary care physician for medical follow-up, if required.

Immunization

Immunization to Hepatitis B virus shall be offered to staff assigned to work directly with students who are known to be unpredictable and aggressive.