BLOOD OR BODY FLUID SPILL PROCEDURES

Carson-Newman College has established procedures to be followed in the event of a blood or body fluid spill in conformance with the regulations set forth by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) that employers must adhere to for the purpose of protecting the health of its employees against human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and hepatitis B virus. The plan includes the identification of employees or students who, by virtue of their jobs, may be exposed to blood or body fluids that may contain potentially infectious materials (such as HIV or hepatitis B.) These persons will receive special training as outlined by regulations, and be offered the hepatitis B vaccine series.

Educating the entire campus community to the procedure to be followed when there is a potentially high-risk situation is also a very important part of the plan.

HIV is the virus that has been identified as causing AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome.) Hepatitis B is a disease that is also caused by the transmission of a virus. Both of these viruses are becoming more prevalent in the general population and therefore all blood or body fluids must be handled as if infected. Neither of these viruses is transmitted through casual contact. Intimate sexual contact and the sharing of needles during intravenous drug use are the main methods of transmission. The viruses can also be transmitted if there is contact of blood or body fluids with open wounds (e.g., on hands) or is the fluid splashes into mucus membranes (eyes or mouth.)

The established procedures using “universal precautions” or infection control are as follows:

1. When there is a spill do not touch the material. Cover it up with whatever disposable material is available (paper towel, etc.) and seal off the area to prevent others from entering the area.
2. Send someone to summon campus safety and security or call the pager number at 504-9940 for assistance.
3. If the spill occurs during normal working hours housekeepers may be asked to assist with the cleanup of the spill as they have been trained in dealing with blood and body spills.
4. Latex gloves or heavy rubber gloves have to be worn by anyone cleaning the spill.
5. Unured persons should administer self-care until medical help arrives. Offer the injured person material to hold pressure over the wound if such material is available.
6. If the injured party is unconscious or unable to render self-help, then assistance would be appropriate from an employee who has been trained to work with blood or body fluid spill procedures. However, employees not trained may choose to assist, but do so at their own risk.
7. Initial clean-up procedures includes using latex or heavy rubber gloves, the use of an approved hospital disinfectant chemical germicide such as household bleach or the solution purchased by the college called “QUATSTAT” that is available in most custodial closets or in the housekeeping office.
8. Spills occurring in the residence halls should be handled by a Resident Director or a Resident Assistant as most members of the residence life staff have received proper training in handling these types of spills.
9. Mops, cleaning rags used in the clean up must be disposed of and not cleaned for reuse.
10. Latex surgical gloves face masks or disposable clothing used for such spills will also be thrown away. However, heavy duty rubber gloves can be cleaned and reused if they have not been damaged or punctured.
11. All materials to be disposed of will only be placed into ‘BIOHAZARD’ decontamination bags that are red in color and contain the appropriate biohazard symbol. These bags are to be sealed and then taken to the Health Services for appropriate disposal by a contractor. Double bagging will be done when there is danger of leakage. No bag is to be left unattended or stored in an unsecured area.
12. No blood or body fluid is to be washed into a drain without having an appropriate disinfectant used on it first.
13. Hands should be thoroughly washed after removing gloves. Protective clothing should be removed upon leaving the work area and placed into a red decontamination bag.
Personal clothing belonging to a person assisting in the clean-up that becomes contaminated will be washed or dry cleaned by at the expense of the college.

(14) Any person who has been exposed or believes he/she has been exposed to a blood borne pathogens or other infectious material should report the matter to his/her supervisor as soon as they leave the work area.

(15) Used needles or other sharps should only be handled by trained persons and should not be recapped, sheared, bent or broken. Rather, they should be placed into punctured-resistant containers for disposal and taken to the Health Services.

(16) The college will make a report of an exposure incident, make available to the employee a free confidential medical evaluation and follow-up of the incident.

(17) The college shall document the route of exposure, HBV and HIV status of the source (student, staff, guest), if known, and circumstances under which the exposure occurred.

(18) The college shall notify the source of the incident and attempt to collect and test the source’s blood to determine for the possible presence of HBV and/or HIV.

(19) The college shall offer repeat HBV/HIV testing to exposed employees for the first six Weeks after exposure and on a periodic basis thereafter (12 weeks and 6 months after exposure.)

(20) Follow up of the exposed worker shall include counseling, medical evaluation of any acute febrile illness that occurs within 12 weeks of the initial exposure, and use of safe and effective measures according to recommendations for standard medical procedures.