

Workplace Health and Safety Bulletin



Information for School Workers

During routine activities in school and day care settings, there is no risk of spread of HIV (the AIDS virus) among children and staff. There may be a potential for transmission if non-intact skin i.e. open sores, dermatitis or mucous membranes come in contact with large amounts of blood or other body fluids of an infected person. This could potentially occur during the provision of first aid. Although the risk of exposure to HIV in these settings is minimal to non-existent, blood or other body fluids containing visible blood should be handled as if they are infectious. This bulletin highlights precautions that may be useful in schools and day care settings.

When giving first aid

- Use dressings and tissues to minimize direct contact with blood, other body fluids and wounds.
- If possible, have the injured person wash the wound first and assist you, e.g. holding a dressing in place, applying pressure, if necessary.
- First aiders need to wear disposable gloves only if there is excessive bleeding or if their hands have open sores or other breaks in the skin which may come in contact with blood or other body fluids.
- If mouth-to-mouth resuscitation is necessary, a mouthpiece should be used if one is available. However, the risk of infection is so slight that no one should hesitate to give resuscitation without a mouthpiece.

- Wash hands thoroughly after providing first aid if there has been any contact with blood or other body fluids and following procedures such as diaper changing.

Cleaning and disinfection

Objects or surfaces soiled with blood or other body fluids should be cleaned first with soap and water using disposable towels. Then disinfect with a solution of one part household bleach to nine parts water.

Soiled clothing

Clothing and linen soiled with blood or other body fluids should be rinsed in cold water and then laundered as usual.

Waste disposal

Waste contaminated with blood or other body fluids should be placed in a sturdy plastic bag, which should be secured with a twist tie and disposed of with regular garbage.

An “*Information Bulletin on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome in Educational Settings*” has been prepared by Alberta Education and Alberta Health. For copies contact Alberta Education – Communications Branch at (780) 427-2285. For concerns regarding HIV infected children in Day Care Centres contact your local health unit.

For more information


☎ Sexually Transmitted Disease Control (780) 427-2830


☎ Toll Free AIDS information 1-800-772-AIDS

💻 www.hre.gov.ab.ca/documents/WHS/WHS-PUB_bh002.pdf
Precautions for Workers Exposed to HIV






💻 www.hre.gov.ab.ca/documents/WHS/WHS-PUB_bh003.pdf
AIDS Information for Health Care Workers

 www.hre.gov.ab.ca/documents/WHS/WHS-PUB_bh004.pdf
AIDS Information for Laboratory Workers

 www.hre.gov.ab.ca/documents/WHS/WHS-PUB_bh006.pdf
AIDS Information for Funeral Service Workers


 www.hre.gov.ab.ca/documents/WHS/WHS-PUB_bh009.pdf
AIDS Information for Correctional Workers

References


-  Centre for Disease Control, “*Recommendations for prevention for HIV transmission in health-care settings*”. Canada Diseases Weekly Report 1987; 13S3
-  Centres for Disease Control, “*Summary: recommendations for preventing transmission of infection with HTLV III/LAV in the workplace.*” Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 185;34(45):681-695
-  Centres for Disease Control, “*Update: Universal precautions for prevention of transmission of human immunodeficiency virus, hepatitis B virus and other Bloodborne pathogens in health-care settings*”. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 1988;37(24): 377-388
-  National Advisory Committee on AIDS. “*AIDS: Guidelines for Funeral Directors*”. Canada Diseases Weekly Report, 1986;12:203-208
-  HIV & AIDS. Soc. Occup. Med. (UK) Oct. 1992

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Web Site



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Workplace Health and Safety



www.whs.gov.ab.ca/whs-legislation



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Call any Government of Alberta office toll-free
Dial 310-0000, then the area code and telephone number you want to reach

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