

BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN SAFETY INFORMATION

What are bloodborne pathogens?

Bloodborne pathogens are disease causing germs that enter the body through exposure to blood or other bodily fluids.

What diseases do they cause?

Bloodborne pathogens primarily cause:

- Hepatitis B –The liver is attacked by the virus. It is vaccine-preventable.
- Hepatitis C –The liver is attacked by the virus. No vaccine is available.
- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) – The immune system is attacked by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). There is no vaccine available.

How are bloodborne pathogens spread?

Bloodborne pathogens are primarily spread through contact with an infected person's blood. Also, contact with other potentially infectious material (called OPIM), such as semen, vaginal secretions, other body fluids or tissue containing visible blood may spread disease. The most common means of transmission are needle sticks, unprotected sexual intercourse, and human bites.

Who can transmit these diseases?

As a school district employee you will probably not know if a staff member or student has a bloodborne disease since the germs can infect people from all walks of life and all ages. In addition, many infected people have no symptoms and often do not know that they are carrying any disease.

How can you protect yourself from exposure to bloodborne pathogens?

- Learn about the diseases and how they are spread.
- Attend a Bloodborne Pathogen class conducted by your school nurse.
- Use Standard Precautions and follow the exposure control plan for Austin Independent School District.
- Use barriers to exposure to blood and body fluids such as condoms or gloves.
- Do not share needles. Properly dispose of needles (sharps) in specified containers.
- Avoid getting tattoos or body piercing unless the technicians follow all safety practices.
- Do not share toothbrushes or razors.
- Report any possible exposure immediately to your supervisor.
- Get the Hepatitis B vaccine. *

*While it is advisable that **all** persons receive the Hepatitis B vaccine, the AISD provides the vaccine free of charge to those staff who are considered at "high risk" of exposure to bloodborne pathogens. The following job classifications with AISD apply:

- Nurse (to include nurse practitioners, registered nurses, licensed vocational nurses)
- Health Assistant
- Athletic Trainer
- AISD Police Officer/Security Guard/SRO
- Special Education Staff (teachers and teacher assistants in PPCD, Life Skills and ED units)
- Custodian
- Auxiliary/Ancillary Staff (bus drivers and monitors)
- Unlicensed Diabetes Care Assistant (UDCA)
- AISD Quick Care Staff
- ALC Staff/Teacher Assistant

The vaccine is very well tolerated and requires a series of three injections given at specific intervals for maximum protection. **If** you are in a high risk category position, you have the option to consent (in writing) to receive this vaccine or decline it at this time. The vaccines are administered once per month during the school year. For more information you may contact the AISD Risk Management Department at 414-2294.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____