

VENTURA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION NO. 4119.43 / 4219.43

ADOPTED: 02/03/14

CLASSIFICATION: Personnel

REVISED: 08/22/22

SUBJECT: Universal Precautions

DEFINITIONS

Universal Precautions is an approach to infection control. According to the concept of Universal Precautions, all human blood and certain human body fluids are treated as if known to be infectious for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV) and other bloodborne pathogens.

Occupational exposure means reasonably anticipated contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from the performance of an employee's duties.

Personal Protective Equipment is specialized clothing or equipment worn or used by an employee for protection against a hazard. General work clothes such as uniforms, pants, shirts, or blouses not intended to function as protection against a hazard are not considered to be personal protective equipment.

A sharp is any object that can be reasonably anticipated to penetrate the skin or any other part of the body and to result in an exposure incident.

INFECTION CONTROL PRACTICES

For the prevention of infectious disease, VCOE shall:

1. Effectively maintain the worksite in a clean and sanitary condition and implement an appropriate written schedule for cleaning and decontamination of the worksite.
2. When necessary for employees with occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens, VCOE will provide appropriate personal protective equipment, such as gloves, masks, and outer garments, at no cost to the employee.
3. Provide handwashing facilities which are readily accessible to employees. When provision of handwashing facilities is not feasible, VCOE shall provide an appropriate antiseptic hand cleanser in conjunction with clean cloth or paper towels, or antiseptic towelettes.

Any employee who has contact with blood or other body fluid, regardless of whether bloodborne pathogens are known to be present, shall:

1. Use personal protective equipment as appropriate.
2. Wash hands and other skin surfaces thoroughly with soap and running water immediately or as soon as feasible following contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials and immediately after removing gloves or other personal protective equipment.
3. When handwashing facilities are not available, the employee shall use antiseptic hand cleanser in conjunction with clean cloth or paper towels, or antiseptic towelettes. In such instances, hands shall be washed with soap and running water as soon as feasible.
4. Refrain from eating, drinking, smoking, applying cosmetics or lip balm, or handling contact lenses in work areas with a reasonable likelihood of occupational exposure.
5. Clean and decontaminate all equipment and environmental and work surfaces after contact with blood or other potentially infectious material, no later than the end of the work period or more frequently as required by state regulations.
6. Rather than using hands directly, use mechanical means such as a brush and dustpan, tongs or forceps to clean up broken glassware which may be contaminated.
7. Use effective techniques and other methods designed to minimize the risk of a sharps injury in all procedures involving the use of sharps.
8. Handle, store, treat and dispose of regulated waste in accordance with Health and Safety Code 117600-118360 and other applicable state and federal regulations.
 - a. Immediately or as soon as possible after use, contaminated sharps shall be placed in containers meeting the requirements of 8 CCR 5193. Containers shall be easily accessible, maintained upright throughout use where feasible, and replaced as necessary to avoid overfilling.
 - b. Specimens of blood or other potentially infectious material shall be placed in a container which prevents leakage during collection, handling, processing, storage, transport or shipping.