

# **New Story Schools of Ohio 2024-2025: School Procedure for Bloodborne Pathogens Management**

## **Introduction:**

Bloodborne pathogens are microorganisms found in human blood and other bodily fluids that can cause disease in humans. To ensure the safety and well-being of students, staff, and visitors, our school implements the following policy in accordance with guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Ohio Department of Health.

### **1. Education and Training:**

All school staff, including teachers, administrators, nurses, custodial personnel, and other relevant staff, will receive annual training on bloodborne pathogens, including modes of transmission, prevention strategies, and proper response procedures.

Training sessions will cover topics such as universal precautions, proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and procedures for handling potentially infectious materials.

### **2. Exposure Control Plan:**

The school will maintain an exposure control plan that outlines procedures for minimizing the risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens and managing incidents of exposure.

The exposure control plan will be reviewed annually and updated as needed to reflect changes in regulations or best practices.

### **3. Universal Precautions:**

Universal precautions will be consistently applied when handling blood and other potentially infectious materials, regardless of the perceived infection status of the source.

### **4. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):**

Adequate PPE, including gloves, face shields, and eye protection, will be provided to all staff who may come into contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials.

Staff will receive training on the proper selection, use, and disposal of PPE to ensure effective protection against bloodborne pathogens.

### **5. Engineering Controls:**

Engineering controls, such as sharps containers for the safe disposal of needles and other sharp objects, will be implemented to minimize the risk of sharps injuries and exposure to bloodborne pathogens.

Biohazard labels will be affixed to containers used for storing or transporting potentially infectious materials.

### **6. Exposure Incident Response:**

Staff who experience an exposure incident, such as a needlestick injury or contact with blood or bodily fluids, will receive immediate medical evaluation and follow-up care as necessary.

The incident will be documented, and appropriate reporting procedures will be followed in accordance with state and federal regulations.

**7. Hepatitis B Vaccination:**

All employees who have the potential for occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens will be offered the hepatitis B vaccine series at no cost.

Vaccination records will be maintained confidentially in accordance with privacy laws and regulations.

**8. Policy Review and Updates:**

The school's bloodborne pathogens policy will be reviewed annually by the administrative team in collaboration with healthcare professionals to ensure compliance with CDC guidelines and state regulations.

Any necessary updates or revisions to the policy will be made based on emerging evidence or changes in regulations.

**Conclusion:**

By implementing and adhering to this bloodborne pathogens policy, our school aims to create a safe and healthy environment for all members of the school community. Prevention of exposure to bloodborne pathogens is a shared responsibility, and cooperation from all staff is essential in maintaining a safe learning environment. Thank you for your commitment to safety and infection control.