

CHEYENNE COUNTY POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

I. POLICY STATEMENT

It is our policy to provide protection for our employees. The County promotes proper bloodborne pathogens and certain body fluids protection in the workplace. Department Heads are encouraged to adopt specific policies for their department to ensure regulatory compliance and the safety and protection of their employees.

II. GENERAL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

A. Responsibility

The Safety Coordinator has responsibility for the enforcement of this policy. The Safety Coordinator will review and update the policy, as necessary. Copies of the written policy may be obtained from the Clerk's office.

B. AVAILABILITY OF EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN TO EMPLOYEES

The OSHA standard relating to bloodborne pathogens was effective on March 5, 1992. Although the following plan is not required by law, the County feels the following plan should be made available to all employees.

Any humanitarian gesture, such as assisting another employee who has a nosebleed or is bleeding as the result of an injury would be considered to be a "Good Samaritan" act. Caution should be taken to prevent exposure to blood or other bodily fluids for personal protection.

The exposure to blood or bodily fluids is minimal generally in County business. However, it must be recognized that minor lacerations and abrasions are common in certain positions.

Because of the risk, even though remote in our business, we do not maintain or recommend first aid treatment by untrained County personnel. Trained fire and ambulance personnel are available to respond to County workplaces in all instances.

It is the County recommendation to use available first aid kits for all minor injuries. For all major injuries, contacting 911 is recommended. Those injuries not requiring emergency treatment can be treated at an appropriate medical facility.

III. METHODS OF COMPLIANCE

A. UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS

Bloodborne pathogens are microorganisms in the human blood that can cause disease in humans.

Exposure or contact with human blood or other bodily fluids is a remote possibility generally, however, should contact occur it is recommended that each occurrence be treated as possibly an infected substance.

Employers and employees must treat all blood and certain bodily fluids as being infectious. Therefore, each one must be aware of the risks of exposure and understand the dangers involved with possible exposures.

B. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Always take precautions and use proper personal protective equipment to avoid any contamination or exposure. Employees are encouraged to use appropriate PPE where possible, including but not limited to rubber gloves, safety glasses, face masks, and to further attempt avoid where possible any direct contact with human blood or other potentially infectious materials or bodily fluids.

C. ENGINEERING CONTROLS

Cleanliness is the ultimate preventative measure that includes the presence of washing facilities and soap in all locations. Employees are encouraged to use them routinely as well as requiring their use when an exposure to human blood or other bodily fluids occurs. If needed, an eyewash station is available at the hospital or by calling 911.

D. HOUSEKEEPING

For the protection of our employees, the County promotes the proper cleanup of bloodborne pathogens and certain bodily fluids in County facilities.

Because of the possibility of accidental exposure, we have a policy requiring work practices that must be followed in cleaning up human blood or bodily fluids that may be present in County facilities.

Chemical sterilization is required for a spill of human blood or other potentially infectious bodily fluids from an injury or illness in County facilities. A general recommended solution of one (1) cup of household bleach mixed with one (1) gallon of water, soaking the spill for at least twenty (20) minutes is highly recommended. After the period of soaking, use a mop, rags, or paper towels to wipe up the spill. Insure that all personnel use rubber gloves during this procedure and never use bare hands. Contact the Safety Coordinator or refer to specific Departmental policies for further guidance.

E. HEPATITUS B VACCINATION

Employees who are at high-risk for exposure to blood or other potentially infectious bodily fluids will be offered the HBV vaccine at no cost. “High-risk employees” are those employed by the following departments: Sheriff’s Office, Fire, EMS, Emergency Management, Landfill, and Courthouse Maintenance. “High-risk employees” are also those employees who provide public transportation services. Those employees who choose not to receive the vaccine, shall sign a declination form, which shall be placed in the employee’s human resources file. These employees at a later date may opt to receive the vaccine at no additional cost.

F. POST-EXPOSURE EVALUATION AND FOLLOWUP

Post-exposure evaluation and follow-up by an appropriate medical provider will be made available to all employees who have had an exposure incident at no cost. The follow-up may, as medically appropriate, include a confidential medical exam that documents the circumstances of exposure, identifies and tests the source individual, tests the exposed employees blood if he/she consents, provide counseling for the worker, and post prophylaxis.