

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (*Infection Control*)

### Procedures for Cleaning Blood and/or Body Fluids

Many communicable agents can be found in the blood or body fluids of humans, including in individuals with no outward signs or symptoms of infection. The district requires all district personnel to adopt routine procedures for handling the clean-up of all body fluid spills. The procedures, as outlined by the Center for Disease Control, are as follows:

1. If available, absorbent floor-sweeping material should be used to cover fluids to keep them from spreading.
2. Vinyl or latex gloves should be worn, and all spills should be cleaned up with absorbent towels or tissues, using soap and water.
3. If the person doing the cleaning has any open skin lesions, precautions should be taken to avoid direct exposure of the lesions to the body fluids.
4. All surfaces that have been in contact with the fluids should then be wiped with a disinfectant approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A 1:10 dilution of household bleach can also be used, but this solution should not be mixed in advance. After the disinfectant is applied, the surface should either be allowed to air dry or to remain wet for ten (10) minutes before being dried with a disposable towel or tissue.

**CAUTION:** The diluted bleach solution should not be used for any other purpose than the cleaning process described above. Mixing this solution with certain other chemicals can produce a toxic gas. Any EPA-approved disinfectant used should be diluted according to the manufacturer's instructions. Adding more disinfectant than the directions indicate is not necessary and will make the disinfectant more toxic, potentially resulting in skin or lung damage.

5. If the gloves worn to clean up the spill are reusable, they should be washed with soap and running water prior to removal. Disposable gloves should be removed without soiling the hands and should be disposed of in an impermeable plastic bag. The hands should always be thoroughly washed with soap and water after the gloves are removed regardless of whether any contamination has occurred.
6. After exposure to body fluids, good handwashing should consist of thorough use of soap and water for at least 15 seconds.

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7. It is necessary to keep one (1) or more clean-up kits on hand for such spills. The clean-up kit should consist of the following items:
- ▶ Absorbent floor-sweeping material
  - ▶ Liquid soap
  - ▶ Disinfectant
  - ▶ Small buckets
  - ▶ Vinyl or latex gloves
  - ▶ Disposable towels or tissues
  - ▶ Impermeable plastic bags

All of these materials should be kept together in one (1) or more central locations.

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***Note: The reader is encouraged to review policies and/or forms for related information in this administrative area.***

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Cole County R-I School District, Russellville, Missouri