

10.6 - STANDARD PRECAUTIONS AGAINST BLOOD-BORNE DISEASES

1. There are significant risks associated with the transmission of blood borne infections such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV. These risks are just as much present in Scouting as in any other activity in the community.
2. These guidelines set out how to deal with blood or body substance spills and how to deal with injuries involving exposure to blood or body substances.
3. These precautions apply to all body fluids, secretions and excretions, (excluding sweat) regardless of whether they contain visible blood. Note that these precautions include good hygiene practices, particularly washing and drying hands before and after patient contact and the use of gloves.
4. In order to be prepared for blood and/or body substance spills, every Scout facility and first aid kit needs to have disposable gloves, detergent, paper towels or equivalent cleaning or drying facilities and strong waste bags. Every toilet on Scout premises should be equipped with liquid soap and paper towels to ensure good hygiene practices at all times, not just in the case of blood or body substance spills or injuries.
5. We need to assume that all human blood or body substance are potential sources of infection irrespective of perceived risk.

DEALING WITH BLOOD AND/OR BODY SUBSTANCE SPILLS

6. Blood and body substance spills pose a significant health risk. If a spillage of blood or body substances occurs:
 - a. wear disposable gloves and protective clothing;
 - b. pick up and dispose of broken glass or any other sharp object included in the spill with forceps;
 - c. wipe up blood and/or body substances using paper towels, or equivalent cleaning or drying facilities etc;
 - d. clean surfaces with detergent and water using disposable wipes, paper towels or equivalent cleaning or drying facilities ;
 - e. rinse and dry surfaces (carpeted areas should be shampooed); and
 - f. place all soiled materials in a strong waste bag.
7. It is our responsibility to provide a work safe environment, including appropriate training, facilities and equipment.

INJURIES AND BLOOD AND BODY SUBSTANCE EXPOSURES

8. Where blood or body fluids have or may have come in contact with non-intact skin, pierced skin or mucous membranes, the injured person should wash the wound with soap and water and encourage bleeding by gently squeezing the wound. If contamination occurs in the eyes, nose or mouth, the area should be rinsed well using water or a saline solution. The leader in charge should report

the incident to the Branch Office using the Incident Report Form. The affected person should seek medical attention as soon as possible.

AUTHORITY

This policy or amended policy was approved by the Branch Executive Committee on 25 November 1998 and 24 August 2017. *These precautions are based upon the "Code of Practice on Infection Control", published by the Health Protection Service from the ACT Department of Health and Community Care. This document is used by the AIDS Action Council for educating staff in child care facilities about blood borne disease.*