

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS INFECTION CONTROL

POLICY:

In view of the fact that blood and body fluids provide a vehicle for the transmission of infectious diseases, and because infectious clients may not always be identified as such, it is the policy The Ministries of Jesus that **UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS WILL BE APPLIED TO ALL CLIENTS REGARDLESS OF THEIR PRECAUTION STATUS OR DIAGNOSIS.**

PROCEDURE:

1. Hands will be washed between contact with different clients. Hands will be washed even when gloves have been used. If hands come in contact with blood, body fluids, moist tissues of the body, urine, feces, oral secretions, or emesis, they will immediately be washed with soap and water.
2. Gloves will be worn when contact with the substances listed in #1 above is likely to occur. Gloves will also be worn when cleaning up spill of the above fluids or when coming into contact with instruments contaminated with the above fluids or with contaminated surfaces.
3. Lab coats will be worn if it is likely that the clothing will be soiled with body substances.
4. Masks and protective goggles will be available to be worn when it is likely that the eyes and/or mucus membranes will be splashed with body substances.
5. Blood and body fluid spills will be cleaned up promptly with a disinfectant solution such as 5.25% sodium hypochlorite (household bleach) diluted 1:10 with water.
6. Discard all trash in impervious plastic bags. Any items heavily soiled with body substances are to be confined and contained in red plastic bags.
7. All soiled linens shall be placed in impervious plastic bags.

KEY DEFINITIONS:

1. **Occupational exposure** means skin, eye, mucous membrane, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from the performance of volunteer/employee's duties.
2. **Exposure incident** means a specific eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, non-intact skin, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that resulted from the employee's duties.
3. **Bloodborne pathogens** means pathogenic micro-organisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
4. **Contaminated** means the presence of blood or other potentially infectious materials on an item or surface.

5. **Decontaminated** means the use of physical or chemical means to remove, inactivate, or destroy bloodborne pathogens on a surface or item to the point where they are no longer capable of transmitting infectious particles and the surface is rendered safe for handling.
6. **Parenteral** means piercing the skin barrier through such events as needle sticks, human bites, cuts, and abrasions.
7. **Invasive procedures** means surgical entry into tissues, cavities, or organs.
8. **Personal protective equipment** is specialized clothing or equipment worn by employee/volunteer for protection against a hazard, i.e. lab coats, masks, goggles, or gloves.
9. **Infectious wastes** consists of any waste trash material which contains infectious agents likely to gain entrance to a host through wound inflictions or by splashing onto mucous membranes.
10. **Source – Individual** means any individual whose blood or other potentially infectious material may be a source of occupational exposure to the employee/volunteer.
11. **Regular non-infectious waste** means any waste which does not contain agents likely to gain entrance to a host through wound infection or by splashing onto mucous membrane. Examples are:
 - Perineal pads
 - Chux/disposable drapes/paper exam table covers
 - Urine cups without visible blood

12. Tasks and procedures in which occupational exposure may occur:

- Contact with blood products or body fluids or objects contaminated thereof
- Invasive procedures
- Handling disposal of waste
- Cleaning/processing of contaminated equipment
- Handling of soiled linen
- Cleaning/decontamination of environmental surfaces