



Blood and Body Fluid Exposures: Response Procedures

Blood and body fluids may contain viruses such as hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV), or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)

Examples of Exposures

- a needle stick or cut from a sharp object
- blood and/or body fluid contact with broken skin (open cut, wound, rash)
- blood and/or body fluid contact with eyes, nose or mouth

What to Do If There Is an Exposure

- Clean your hands and then put on single-use gloves prior to handling or dressing a client's wound.
- Wash the exposed skin surface with water and soap. If the area is bleeding, allow it to bleed freely. After cleaning the wound, apply a skin antiseptic and cover with a clean dressing or bandage.
- If there has been a splash onto a mucous membrane (eyes, nose, mouth) flush the area thoroughly with water.
- The person exposed must immediately contact a health professional.
- Document all incidents and keep records for three years with a minimum of one year (365 days) on site.

Information To Be Documented When There Has Been an Exposure

- the date of the injury/exposure
- full name (first and last), mailing address and phone number of the person exposed
- full name and contact information of person providing the procedure (first and last) when the exposure occurred
- the service being provided when the exposure occurred
- details of the exposure including where on the body the injury/exposure occurred and how the injury/exposure occurred
- action taken

Questions/inquiries? Please contact BodySafe at BodySafe@toronto.ca or 416-338-BODY(2639).