

Sample Policy: Blood/Bodily Fluids Clean-Up in the Shelter Setting

When you provide First Aid or when you clean an area or handle any items soiled with blood or bodily fluids (urine, vomit, blood, feces, semen) please take precautions to protect yourself and others from infection. Always follow these simple steps when you clean up after blood/body fluids spills:

Equipment:

- Paper towels
- Plastic garbage bags
- Kitty litter (for big spills)
- Disinfectant (bleach 1:10 dilution)
- Mop & mop bucket
- Spray bottle

Protective apparel:

- Latex gloves
- Eye/face protection (plastic goggles)
- Protective gowns or aprons

Policy/Procedures:

Spill clean-up materials are located _____ along with a copy of this document.

- 1) Put on **protective gear**. If it is possible that blood or bodily fluids may spray or splatter, wear **protective eye covering (plastic goggles)**. Put on **latex gloves**. If there is a possibility that your clothing may become soiled, put on a **protective gown** (as when handling laundry or soiled clothing). Keep the scene clear of people.
- 2) Get a **bucket or spray bottle, bleach, and paper towels or a mop** to clean the floor and other areas. If the area is large, put cup **bleach** in a gallon of **cool water** (hot water destroys the bleach). Spray the area with this solution. If the area to be cleaned is small, you can make a solution of bleach and cool water in a **quart spray bottle**. Use 1 teaspoon of bleach per quart. This bleach solution must be discarded after 24 hours. It is recommended that a fresh solution be mixed up every time it is needed.
- 3) Blot up as much of the spill and the bleach solution as possible with **paper towels**. If there is a large volume spills or vomit, use **kitty litter** to absorb. Dispose of these materials in a **plastic garbage bag**.
- 4) If you used a **mop**, rinse the mop in **bleach solution** and allow to dry. Dump the leftover solution down the drain or toilet. **DO NOT** use a sink that is normally used for food preparation.
- 5) Pick up any soiled debris (clothing, bedding, towels, or bandages) and place in a **garbage bag**. If you are finished cleaning, remove your protective gear and gloves and put them in the garbage bag. Tie off the garbage bag and place it in the regular trash. Only very

large spills need to be placed in special biohazard bags and disposed of by an approved facility.

- 6) Wash your hands thoroughly. Re-stock the **clean-up kit**. If you have had significant exposure to bodily fluid (needle stick or contact with mucous membrane or non-intact skin) contact a supervisor **immediately** and follow the sample policy for “blood/bodily fluid exposure”.

Developed by Health Care for the Homeless Network, Public Health – Seattle & King County, WA

Appendix C - Sample Policy: Blood/Bodily Fluids Clean-Up Protocol Developed by
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