



Pilgrims School

Managing Blood and Body Fluid Spills Policy

January 2023

Next review date: January 2024



Relevant statutory guidance and legislation

The Health Protection Agency
Public Health England
The Health and Safety Executive

Purpose and aims of this Policy

It is important that all employees practise good personal hygiene, are aware of the procedure and fully comply with the controls for dealing with body fluid spillages. Body fluids such as blood, vomit, faeces, saliva, mucus and semen, potentially carry infection and transmittable diseases. It is important that all employees practise good personal hygiene, are aware of the procedure and fully comply with the controls for dealing with body fluid spillages.

Staff cleaning up spills of blood or body fluids must protect themselves with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). A spillage kit containing gloves, plastic aprons, foot covers, goggles, masks, waste bags, scoop, decontamination granules and a padded bag/sock to contain larger spills can be located in Main School medical room.

Disposal and cleaning precautions

All body fluid spills should be cleaned up quickly to help protect students, staff and visitors from potential infection. All spillages of body fluids and material used during the clean-up should be treated as 'clinical waste' and disposed of appropriately. Yellow biohazard bags should be used to dispose of waste and must be securely tied/sealed and disposed of in the designated clinical waste bin. In the event of large amounts of biohazard waste or if bins are full, a specialist waste company must be contacted via the Deputy Estates and Property Manager.

Mops and buckets etc. should only be used once the area has been thoroughly decontaminated and must be disinfected and dried after use. Contaminated clothing should be washed separately on a hot wash (above 60 °C). Spillages on soft furnishings, carpets and upholstery must be steamed cleaned when possible. In cases of excessive spillage, items should be disposed of as clinical waste.

Procedure for cleaning small spills of body fluid including blood

A volume that is easily managed with a minimal amount of decontamination equipment or materials

- Cordon off area with hazard warning signs.
- Ensure any wounds or abrasions are covered with a waterproof dressing, wearing disposable gloves, sprinkle enough granules from the spill kit over spillage to solidify and disinfect the area, leave for two minutes, scoop up and dispose of as above.
- Clean the area with detergent and hot water.
- Deodorise the area with the Sta-Kill solution from the spill kit
- Wash hands thoroughly.

Procedure for cleaning Large spills of body fluid including blood

A volume that would require more than one person, large amounts of decontamination equipment and/or contamination of objects that would prove difficult to decontaminate

- Cordon off the area with hazard warning signs.
- If the spillage extensive in addition to wearing gloves and a plastic apron, disposable over shoes or rubber boots should be worn.
- If splashing is likely to occur protective eye wear and a mask is needed. Remember to ensure any wounds or abrasions are covered with a waterproof dressing. If necessary contain the spill using the padded bag/sock from the 'Spill kit'.
- Liquid spills should be covered with spill kit granules and left for 2 minutes before cleaning up with paper towels and/or a plastic dustpan.

- Scoop up towels or granules carefully, place in biohazard bag, together with any PPE (apron, gloves disposable shoe covers) and any other cleaning equipment and dispose of in yellow bin. Rubber boots may be decontaminated with dilute disinfectant.
- Finally wash area with hot water and detergent using disposable cleaning materials.
- Deodorise the area using the Sta-Kill solution from the spill kit.
- Wash hands thoroughly.

Carpet and upholstery spills

If contamination of carpet, upholstery or soft furnishings does occur, specialist cleaning may be needed.

It may be necessary to incinerate furnishings if there is a high level of contamination or if there are grounds for believing that the contaminating material is infectious.

Accidental exposure to blood & other body fluids

Accidental exposure to blood and body fluids can occur when there is:

- A puncture to the skin through an object e.g. needle, instrument
- Exposure of broken skin e.g. wound or abrasion
- Exposure of mucous membranes, including the mouth and eyes.

The following actions should be taken immediately:

- Immediately stop what you are doing
- In the case of a wound, encourage bleeding by applying gentle pressure. *Do not suck the wound*
- Wash thoroughly under running water
- Dry and apply waterproof dressing
- If blood or body fluids come into contact with eyes, irrigate with cold water
- If blood or body fluids come into contact with mouth do not swallow, rinse mouth out several times with water
- Seek medical advice from A& E
- An accident form should be completed

Monitoring and Evaluation

Following any accident / incident a full report and where necessary investigation should take place to prevent the spread of infection.

If you unsure about something – please ask for help.

Reviewed /Approved by Health and Safety Committee:

Jonathan Bennett

Estates and Facilities Manager