

# Lincoln County

## Blood borne Pathogens *Safety Training Handout*

### ■ What are blood borne pathogens?

Pathogenic microorganisms such as viruses or bacteria that are present in human blood and can cause diseases in humans. These include: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B (HBV) and Hepatitis C (HCV)

### ■ How are they transmitted?

Through contact with blood and other potentially infectious materials that enter the bloodstream

### ■ What are potentially infectious materials?

- Blood, vaginal secretions, joint fluid, lung fluid, and other bodily fluid
- Unfixed tissue or organs from a human being whether living or dead, other than intact skin
- Any bodily fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood
- Bodily fluids where it is impossible to differentiate and identify the precise bodily fluids

### ■ How can you be exposed to a bloodborne disease?

- Infectious materials enter your body through open wounds, new cuts, broken skin and through the mucous membranes of your eyes, nose and mouth
- Exposure incidents can occur during accidents, while providing first-aid, when cleaning up a spill or during laundry & waste removal duties

### ■ How can exposure be prevented?

- ***Universal Precautions:*** Treat all blood and bodily fluids as if they were infectious
- ***Personal Protective Equipment:*** Minimize exposure by wearing gloves, splash goggles, resuscitation masks, and other barriers when there is a risk of exposure Remove PPE prior to leaving work area and place PPE in proper containers. Do not reuse disposal PPE
- ***Spill Cleanup:*** Disinfect all areas where bodily fluids have spilled with 10 to 1 water, bleach solution and place clean-up materials in proper containers.
- ***Proper Waste Disposal:*** Label all waste with proper biohazard labels or deposit in red, leak-proof containers or bags
- ***Proper Handling of Contaminated Laundry:*** Pre-soak all contaminated laundry, use PPE, and keep handling to a minimum.

### ■ What should I do if I believe I've been exposed?

- Wash the exposed area immediately with non-abrasive antibacterial soap and running water
- If fluids enter eyes or nose, flush with running water for at least 15 minutes
- Immediately report incident to supervisor
- You will receive post-exposure evaluation and follow-up which includes a confidential medical evaluation and blood testing