



GUIDELINES ON MANAGING THE RISKS OF BLOOD-BORNE DISEASE – HIV/AIDS, HEPATITIS B AND C

July 2009

These guidelines contain information and guidance on how to manage the risks associated with HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne viruses such as Hepatitis B and C.

Regulations and Law

Education Act 1989, s3 - A student's entitlement to free education in any state school.

Human Rights Act 1993, s21 and 57 (1). It is unlawful for a school to discriminate against an HIV/AIDS student. Section 60 (2) provides the exception where there is an unreasonable risk of harm to the student or to others. However, the exception does not apply if the school can take reasonable measures to reduce the risk of harm to a normal level (see s60 (3)).

Privacy Act 1993, s6 - Information Privacy Principles. In particular, Principle 3 - Collection of information from subject and 11 - Limits on disclosure of personal information.

Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 Employers shall take all practicable steps to ensure the safety of employees while at work.

Principles and good practice:

A child's health status should not affect their right to an education.

Those working with children with blood-borne virus should support them so they can live as normal lives as possible.

Children with HIV/AIDS and/or Hepatitis B infection should be able to participate in all activities in schools to the extent that their health permits.

In dealing with any injury, all children should be treated as if they have a blood-borne virus.

You will not always know whether a child who is bleeding is infectious, therefore it is important that anyone who treats a child follows established safety procedures when dealing with any injury, all blood should be treated as if it is infectious.

Refer to the First Aid Precautions sheet that follows. It is a Ministry of Education requirement that this is attached to First Aid boxes and cabinets.

Children and families have a right to privacy.

The Privacy Act 1993 regulates the collection and disclosure of private information.

It is recommended that parents disclose information related to a child's infection status to the Centre President for two reasons. Firstly, it will be to the child's advantage so that the Playcentre can work with the parents to provide the best possible support. Secondly, it is important that those who 'need to know' are informed.

Centre Presidents, perhaps in consultation with the Health and Safety Convenor, need to agree with parents of affected children which people 'need to know', and what they need to know about a child's health status. Factors to consider are whether the child is old enough to be dropped off on sessions, whether disclosure can be limited to senior members of a duty team etc.

Some useful information about HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B and C

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV): This is a virus which attacks the immune system. It is both immune suppressing and opportunistic, not only depleting the immune system but replicating within the body as the immune system becomes more damaged. People with HIV become increasingly likely to develop certain infections, or some forms of cancer, which the body would normally be able to resist easily.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS): This is the most severe clinical expression of infection with HIV. AIDS is diagnosed according to clinical criteria established by the Ministry of Health. These criteria include the diagnoses of one of several opportunistic infections, including Kaposi's sarcoma, lymphoma, and a rare form of pneumonia.

Hepatitis B: This is a vaccine preventable viral infection of the liver that causes nausea, loss of appetite, vomiting and jaundice (yellow skin).

Hepatitis C: This is a blood-borne viral disease that affects the liver and can cause serious long-term liver problems.

How these viruses are transmitted

HIV can only be transmitted through sexual intercourse/activity involving the exchange of body fluids (semen & vaginal fluids); the exchange of blood by sharing needles and syringes, by injecting drug users. It can also be transmitted from mother to baby during pregnancy, delivery and breastfeeding.

HIV positive children represent a minimal risk to others. It has not been conclusively demonstrated that HIV (and hepatitis B) infected children who bite others transmit the virus. Any child who is bleeding from an injury should be removed for the protection and safety of all other participants in whatever sport they are playing. The injury should be treated following the safety procedures set out in these guidelines above.

HIV is not transmitted by casual contact, such as sneezing, handshaking, and the sharing of eating and toilet facilities or by changing nappies.

Hepatitis B is transmitted through close contact with blood or other body fluids of an infected person. This can happen in a number of ways:

- by close physical contact;
- by sexual intercourse;
- from mother to baby when the baby is born;
- by injecting drug users sharing non-sterilised needles; and
- by tattooists using non-sterilised needles.

Hepatitis C is transmitted through contact with infected blood. It occurs through sharing contaminated injecting equipment and contaminated skin piercing such as tattooing and body piercing.

Sources of more information:

NZ AIDS Foundation

24 Hour Toll Free AIDS Hotline: 0800 802437 OR (09) 358 0099 (if dialling within Auckland).

National Office

1st Floor, 31-35 Hargreaves Street, Ponsonby

P O Box 6663, Wellesley Street, Auckland

Tel: (09) 303 3124 Fax: (09) 309 3149

Email: contact@nzaf.org.nz.

Public Health Protection Service

Auckland Healthcare

Private Bag 92 605, Symonds Street, AUCKLAND

Phone: (09) 262 1855 Fax: (09) 630 7431

Human Rights Commission

P O Box 6751, Wellesley St, Auckland

Toll Free Phone No 0800 496 877

Email: hrc@hrc.co.nz

<http://www.hrc.co.nz/>

The Office of the Commissioner Privacy Commissioner for Children

P O Box 466, Auckland

Tel: (09) 302 8680 - Fax: (09) 302 2305

Toll Free 08000 803 909

Email: privacy@iprolink.co.nz

Ministry of Health

www.moh.govt.nz

Ministry of Education

www.minedu.govt.nz

First Aid Precautions for infection control of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne viruses in Playcentres:

1. Before treating a child who is bleeding, make sure you cover any cuts or abrasions with a water-proof dressing.
2. Wear gloves for all procedures.
3. Don't delay treatment of a child who is bleeding, under any circumstances because gloves are not immediately available. Use an absorbent barrier such as a towel, paper towel, handkerchief etc. for an actively bleeding child.
4. Dispose of used gloves, soiled dressings, sanitary towels, tissues, etc, in a place where they will not be handled, e.g. in bags which are burnt or buried.
5. Wipe clean and then sterilise all surfaces and instruments contaminated with blood. Make sure you use an effective disinfectant, e.g. (one volume of household bleach to nine volumes of cold water).
6. Soak surfaces for 20 minutes and then wipe dry. Prepare a fresh solution immediately before you want to use it.
7. Wash hands thoroughly when you have finished. Hand washing is usually adequate for non-blood secretions, but the above precautions (i.e. gloves, etc) can also be used.
8. Make sure that first-aid kits include disposable gloves, disposable wipes or towels, plastic bags for contaminated waste, a skin disinfectant and a bleach solution (or hypochlorite solution/or granules) with instructions for use.