



Rationale

Standard Precautions - prudent practices that are used to prevent the transmission of an infectious disease; practices which are intended to protect persons from infection through contact with blood or body fluids and are based on the premise that all blood and body fluids are a potential source of infection.

Blood borne pathogens – any pathogen that can be transmitted from one person to another through blood (examples would include HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C). These pathogens may also be transmitted through other body fluids at times, dependant on the type of body fluid and nature of exposure.

Standard Precautions are based on the premise that all persons are a potential source of infection. As it is not possible to tell if a person may be infected with a blood-borne disease, or any other communicable disease, it is important to treat blood and body fluids from everyone as potentially infectious. This includes all body fluids (except sweat).

Policy

The ICS supports the concept of Standard Precautions as a method to provide simple and basic precautions against the transmission of disease. The ICS believes in providing a safe school environment by having written Standard Precautions for people to follow.

Regulation

All persons will follow the Standard Precautions as outlined in the guidelines and procedures below.

Guidelines:

1. To provide a safe school environment for students and staff, it is compulsory that all staff use Standard Precautions.
2. The Island Catholic Schools will:
 - Maintain current policies, regulations and practices with regard to Standard Precautions.
3. School administrators and/or supervisors will:
 - Provide training to all staff that are required to handle blood and body fluids with regard to Standard Precautions.
 - Provide supplies and equipment needed to practice Standard Precautions.



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- Document that all staff who are required to handle blood and body fluids within their area of responsibility have received orientation in Standard Precaution methods.
4. Island Catholic Schools staff members who are required to handle blood and body fluids are expected to:
- Attend and participate in orientation provided on Standard Precautions Policy.
 - Follow the practices which are outlined here in.

Administrative Procedures:

The spread of infection requires three key elements:

- a source of infecting organism
- a susceptible host, and
- a means of transmission for the organism.

The blood-borne diseases most commonly transmitted in this matter are Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C and HIV. The viruses for these diseases can be transmitted through blood and through body fluids such as semen and vaginal secretions. Body fluids such as saliva, sweat, tears, urine, vomit or mucous, unless they are contaminated with blood, are not considered infectious. Viruses enter the body through breaks in the skin such as open sores or puncture wounds. They may also enter through the mucous membranes of the mouth, nose and eyes. Because persons who carry the Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C or HIV viruses may not display any symptoms of disease they may not be aware they are infected. Staff members who are required to handle blood and body fluids will be provided with appropriate personal protective equipment.

1. Prevention and Control Methods

Personal Protective Equipment: ICS wants to prevent spread of disease through appropriate use of personal protective equipment, therefore;

1.1 Contact with bodily fluids:

- Staff¹ must treat all contact as potentially infectious when in contact with blood or body fluids.
- Disposable gloves and barrier masks will be provided to all staff whose duties may involve contact with blood and body fluids.
- It is highly recommended that disposable barrier masks be worn when performing artificial respiration or cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

¹ This may include first aid designates, playground supervisors, physical education teachers and teacher assistants.



- Gloves or masks must be disposed of immediately after use and followed by washing hands with liquid soap for 15 seconds and rinse under running water for 5 seconds.

1.2 Disposing of needles and syringes:

- Staff will have access to tongs and “sharps” containers for handling such items as used syringes and needles.
- Disposable latex, vinyl or rubber gloves must be worn when handling blood or body fluids or in situations where contact may occur.

Gloves must be disposed of immediately after use and followed by washing hands with liquid soap for 15 seconds and rinse under running water for 5 seconds.

2. Procedures and Protocol

2.1 Procedure for disposal of needles and syringe:

Any sharp object which might be contaminated with blood or body fluids should not be handled by hand. They should be picked up with a pair of tongs and disposed of in a puncture-proof container.

Disposing of needles should involve the following steps:

- Put gloves on
- Pick up needles and syringes with garbage collection tongs
- Do not recap, bend or break off used needles
- Place in a puncture resistant ‘sharps’ container
- Keep ‘sharps’ container in a secure location in the school
- Dispose of gloves
- Washing hands with liquid soap for 15 seconds and rinse under running water for 5 seconds.

2.2 Procedure for disposal of condoms:

Disposable latex, vinyl or rubber gloves must be worn when handling blood or body fluids or in situations where contact may occur.

- Put gloves on
- Pick up condom and dispose of condoms in a sealed plastic bag
- Dispose of gloves
- Washing hands with liquid soap for 15 seconds and rinse under running water for 5 seconds.

2.3 Procedure for body fluid clean-up:

The clean-up of any spill involving blood and body fluids should involve the following steps:



- Wear disposable latex, vinyl or rubber gloves.
- Clean up spills promptly by using absorbent disposable material or paper towel first, then clean with a bleach solution (1 part bleach to 10 parts water) or approved disinfectant solution.
- Dispose of the absorbent material and/or paper towels in a sealed plastic bag.
- Wash non-disposable items (towels or clothing) in hot water and detergent, OR
- seal student's clothing in a plastic bag and send it home for cleaning.
- Clean brushes, brooms, mops and other instruments used to clean up body fluids with a bleach solution.
- Remove and dispose of gloves in a sealed bag and wash hands with liquid soap for 15 seconds and rinse under running water for 5 seconds.

2.4 Procedure for hand washing

Hand washing with soap and water should always be done under the following circumstances:

- Before preparing food
- Before meals
- After toileting and diapering
- Before and after providing first aid
- After handling blood or body fluids

3. Protocol for needle stick injuries or contact with blood/body fluids:

If an individual has been stuck by a needle or has come in contact with blood/body fluids, the following steps should be followed:

- Wash wound immediately with soap and warm water
- Do not squeeze cut/wound
- Go to Emergency immediately
- Report to the Superintendent
- Complete Incident Report
- Complete WCB forms as required

4. Training

The ICS wants to prevent infectious disease transmission by ensuring the staff has access to the appropriate awareness, education and training.

- Newly appointed staff shall receive orientation upon commencement of work.



- All ICS staff and any volunteers who are required to handle blood and body fluids working on school diocesan sites will receive orientation in Standard Precautions.
- Site training will be provided.

Note: The description of these prudent practices applies to the prevention of infectious disease transmission and care must be taken to follow the outlined application of these procedures to ensure the health, safety and security of all persons in the ICS.

Reference:	Approved
	Date Approved: Nov 2007
Cross-reference: Policy 526	Date(s) Revised: February 2014