

Managing cuts and blood/body fluid spills in a school or childcare setting

WARNING



Blood and other body fluids are biohazards.

Assume *all* blood and body fluids are potential sources of infection.

If you or a child/student comes into contact with blood or body fluids:

Cleaning up blood or body fluid spills:

Before ...

Is emergency care needed?
Get the First Aid Kit

Wash your hands
Wear gloves

During ...

Encourage needle stick wounds to bleed by squeezing gently

Clean and cover the wound with a waterproof dressing

After ...

Remove your gloves & wash your hands
Correctly dispose of needles/syringes
Dispose of used gloves & disposable towels into a plastic bag

Tell someone ...

1. Seek urgent medical advice - a doctor will assess the need for blood tests, vaccines against tetanus and Hepatitis B, and medications
2. Contact the parents if the injury happens to a child/student
3. Are you a student? Tell a member of staff, don't worry, you will not be in trouble
4. Document the event

1. Make the area safe

- Keep everyone away from the spill
- Cordon off the area if necessary
- Use a hazard sign, etc if needed

2. Keep yourself safe

- Cover any broken skin with a waterproof dressing
- Wear disposable gloves and, if available, a disposable apron *

3. Cleaning

- Check for sharps and broken glass. If present, remove safely and place in suitable container
- Put paper towels over the spill to soak up fluid
- Remove these and discard into a plastic bag
- Clean the spill area with warm water and a suitable detergent (washing-up liquid) and a disposable cloth
- Apply a chlorine based disinfectant to the affected surface :
 - For household bleach use
 - 1 part bleach to 100 parts water for urine, faeces or vomit **
 - 1 part bleach to 10 parts water for blood **
- Allow the surface to dry and then rinse with water to remove any chlorine residue
- Discard gloves, aprons, paper towels and cloths into a plastic bag and then directly into domestic waste
- Wash and dry your hands thoroughly

* Basic protective clothing (i.e. disposable gloves and aprons) should be made easily available for staff use

** Always refer to manufacturers instructions

Department of Public Health – Midlands
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References:

HSE Public Health Medicine Communicable Disease Group. [Management of Infectious Diseases in Schools](#), 2014.
HSE/HPSC. [Management of Infectious Disease in Childcare Facilities and Other Childcare Settings](#), 2012.