Guidelines for the Practice of Standard Precautions

The student is expected to follow guidelines for Standard Precautions:

- Wear latex-free gloves
  - whenever there’s a possibility of contact with blood and/or other body fluids
  - when handling items or surfaces soiled with blood and/or body fluids requiring Standard Precautions
  - during invasive (body entering) procedures including the starting of intravenous access lines and the drawing of arterial and venous blood specimens
  - latex-free gloves are supplied in every classroom as well as many other highly populated areas (library, cafeteria, etc.) on all WITC campuses

- Wear other appropriate protective clothing and equipment (PPE) as needed. Such may include masks, face shields, gowns, aprons, safety glasses, and/or glasses with side shields.

- Perform frequent and thorough handwashing immediately after exposure to infectious materials and after removing gloves or other personal protective equipment

- Use extreme caution to prevent needlesticks and/or other sharps related injuries.

- Dispose of used sharps in puncture-proof containers immediately after use.

- If equipment or clothing because contaminated, follow proper cleaning, decontamination and/or disposal procedures.

- Take special care when you collect, handle, store or transport potentially infectious materials. Use appropriate containers labeled with the biohazard symbol.

- Handle all “red bag” waste per recommendations. Waste saturated with blood and body fluids must be placed into a red biohazard bag for off-site autoclaving/incineration.

- Consider receiving the Hepatitis B Vaccine. If you have exposure to bloodborne risks, it is your best protection against this disease. Contact the public health nurse or physician with any questions or to request further information about this immunization.

- Report any exposure to infectious materials, e.g., needlestick injury, appropriately and promptly to ensure proper medical followup.

- Use clean-up kit designed solely for the purpose of cleaning up spills/messes involving blood and/or body fluids on WITC property.

PROTECTIVE BARRIERS

Wear latex-free gloves
- When handling items or surfaces soiled with blood and/or body fluids requiring Standard Precautions.
- During invasive (body entering) procedures including the starting of intravenous access lines and the drawing of arterial and venous blood specimens (phlebotomy).
Injury prevention

- Disposable syringes and needles, scalpel blades, and other sharp objects should be placed in a Sharps Management System container.
- To prevent needle-stick injuries, needles should not be recapped, purposely bent, or broken by hand, removed from disposable syringes, or otherwise manipulated by hand.
- Use extra caution when working in, around, or with sharp objects, instruments, or machinery. Be sure to use appropriate personal protective gear as necessary and follow all safety guidelines while operating all machinery, tools, and equipment.

Standard Precautions Blood and/or Body Fluid Spill Clean-Up Kits

- Clean-up kits can be found in all custodial areas, as well as the college health nurse’s office.
- Certain high-risk classrooms will also be stocked with kits. A complete list of areas where clean-up kits can be found in the custodian’s office and in the college health nurse’s office.
- Go to the nearest, most convenient supply location and obtain a clean-up kit and any extra materials you feel you will need. (Extra materials are stored next to the kits).
- Take all supplies to the site of the spill/mess.
- Follow the step-by-step instructions printed on the outside of the clean-up kit.
- If the accident/injury that caused the spill has resulted in a person or persons exposure to blood and/or body fluids, there are forms that must be completed. Contact any WITC instructor, clerical personnel, or the school nurse for assistance.

APPROVED DEFINITIONS (OSHA BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS STANDARD)

DATE OF ORIGIN: 06/01/1992
REVIEWS/REVISED: 04/2/2004

BLOOD
Human blood, human blood components, and products made from human blood.

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS
Pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B virus (HBV), Hepatitis C virus (HVC) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

CONTAMINATED
Presence or the reasonably anticipated presence of blood or other potentially infectious materials on an item/surface.

CONTAMINATED LAUNDRY
Laundry that has been soiled with blood or other potentially infectious materials. Laundry that may contain sharps.

CONTAMINATED SHARPS
Any contaminated object that can penetrate the skin, including, but not limited to, needles, scalpels, broken glass, broken capillary tubes and exposed ends of dental wires.

DECONTAMINATION
Use of physical or chemical means to remove, inactivate, or destroy bloodborne pathogens on a surface/item to the point where they are no longer capable of transmitting infectious particles and the surface/item is rendered safe to handling, use or disposal.
ENGINEERING CONTROLS
Controls that isolate or remove bloodborne pathogens hazard from the workplace, e.g., sharps disposal containers.

EXPOSURE INCIDENT
A specific eye, mouth, or other mucous membrane, non-intact skin, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that results from the performance of an employee’s job duties and responsibilities.

HANDWASHING FACILITIES
A facility providing an adequate supply of running potable water, soap and single use towels or hot drying machines to facilitate proper handwashing.

HUMAN BODY FLUIDS
Human body fluids, tissue, or organs.

OTHER POTENTIALLY INFECTIOUS MATERIALS (OPIM)
Semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva in dental procedures, any body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood, and all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids.

HUMAN TISSUE/ORGANS
Any unfixed tissue or organ, other than intact skin, from a human being, living or dead. HIV-containing cell or tissue cultures, organ cultures, and HIV, HCV, or HBV containing culture medium or other solutions. Also blood, organs, or other tissues from experimental animals infected with HIV, HBV, or HCV.

OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE
Reasonably anticipated skin, eye, mucous membrane, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from the performance of an employee’s duties.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)
Specialized clothing or equipment worn by an employee for protection against a hazard. General work clothes, e.g., uniforms, pants, shirts, or blouses, not intended to function as protection against a hazard, are not considered personal protective equipment.

REGULATED WASTE
Liquid or semi-liquid blood or other potentially infectious materials; contaminated items that would release blood or other potentially infectious materials in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed; items that are caked with dried blood or other potentially infectious materials and are capable of releasing these materials during handling; contaminated sharps; and pathological wastes containing blood or other potentially infectious materials.

STANDARD PRECAUTIONS
An infection control approach that treats all human blood and certain body fluids as if known to be infectious for HIV, HBV, HCF, or other bloodborne pathogens.

WORK PRACTICE CONTROLS
Controls that reduce the likelihood of exposure by altering the manner in which a task is performed, e.g., prohibiting recapping of needles.

For more information, or for answers to your questions, stop by the College Health Services Office.