



KAISER PERMANENTE®

Graduate Medical Education
Sacramento Valley

Infection Control

GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTING TRANSMISSION OF INFECTIONS IN HEALTH CARE SETTINGS

These guidelines apply to all employees and physicians in the hospitals, medical office buildings, Regional laboratory, and other relevant regional services of the Northern California Region of the Kaiser Permanente Program.

Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program mandates the application of universal blood and body fluid/substance precautions for all patients as recommended by the American Hospital Association and the Centers for Disease Control. These guidelines are implemented in order to protect employees, physicians, and patients from the transmission of infections and is inclusive of protection against the transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in health care settings. Precautions must be strictly followed whenever there is a possibility of exposure to blood or other body fluids/substances. Health care workers need to exercise judgement in making decisions about anticipating exposure and when to use appropriate barrier precautions. Further, these guidelines do not negate the need for currently used isolation procedures, but rather emphasize universal blood and body fluid/substance precautions for ALL patients regardless of their isolation status or diagnosis.

INFECTION CONTROL PRECAUTIONS

1. Handle the blood and body fluid/substances of ALL patients as potentially infectious. These include blood, body substances, semen, vaginal fluid, tissue, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), synovial, pleural, peritoneal, pericardial, saliva in dental procedures and amniotic fluid in addition to any other body substance that contains visible blood. Consider all body fluids as potentially infectious in situations where it is difficult to differentiate between body fluids.
2. Wash hands before and after all patient or specimen contact.
3. Wear gloves when contact with blood or body fluid/substances is anticipated; remove gloves after each individual task.
4. Wear a gown or disposable plastic apron when splashing with blood or body fluid/substances is anticipated.
5. Wear a mask for protection against airborne transmitted disease. (HIV is not airborne)
6. Wear protective eyewear and mask if facial splatter with blood or body fluid/substances is anticipated.
7. Place used syringes immediately in a nearby puncture-resistant container; generally, needles should not be recapped or manipulated in any way.
8. Process ALL laboratory specimens/tissues as potentially infectious.
9. Place equipment needed for emergency resuscitation, e.g., Ambubags and/or mouthpieces, in areas in which the need for resuscitation is predictable.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH ISSUES

1. Wash your hands, arms, face, etc., immediately and thoroughly if you have had unprotected contact with body substances. Rinse mucous membranes with copious amounts of water.
2. Contact your supervisor when you have had an exposure to blood or body fluid/substances such as a needle stick or a splash of blood onto non-intact skin or mucous membranes. Immediately report to Employee Health for assessment/treatment of exposure. Complete work injury form(s).
3. Protect your non-intact skin (e.g., chapped, abraded or afflicted with dermatitis) from contact with body substances.
4. Become hepatitis B immune by taking the hepatitis B vaccine if exposure potential exists in your job.

Signature

Date