

BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN

PURPOSE:

While normal Library operations are not likely to involve circumstances exposing employees or users to blood borne pathogens, Albany Public Library complies with New York State Department of Labor regulations (and therefore the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations) relating to occupational exposures to blood borne pathogens.

POLICY:

Exposure Determination: No particular job classification of the Library has occupational exposure (meaning “reasonable anticipated...contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from the performance of an employee’s duties”), however, emergencies may occur with staff or patrons, particularly youth or elderly patrons, to which library employees in all classifications may be called up on to respond with assistance. In addition, emergencies with “out of control” individuals (e.g. biting, spitting, etc.) could present an individual threat.

Universal Precautions: All potential circumstances of exposure must be taken into account by the Library and its employees to protect against exposures. Hepatitis B (HBV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and other blood borne pathogens found in human blood and other body fluids cause life-threatening diseases. In emergency or other such circumstances, when contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials may result, the Library’s approach to infection control requires all human blood and body fluids to be treated as if known to be infectious for HIV, HBV, and other blood borne pathogens. Engineering and work practice controls shall be used to eliminate or minimize employee exposures, and if a possibility of exposure remains, personal protective equipment shall also be used.

Exposure Control Plan: At any time within the Library environment that human blood, human body fluids, or other potentially infectious materials are presented, the area contaminated shall be immediately cordoned off and quarantined, even if the entire library must be closed to accomplish this completely. Personal protection equipment, such as gloves, gowns, masks, and eye shields shall be provided and used by approved staff only in the cleanup and safe disposal of contaminated waste such as diapers, blood-tinged materials (e.g. Band-Aids, gauze, cotton,

clothing, etc.), etc. If advisable, a professional hazardous/contaminated cleanup firm shall be contacted and retained for complete cleanup and decontamination. The quarantine shall be effective until complete cleanup and disposal is obtained. Hand-washing facilities are provided by the Library and must be used by the employees as soon as feasible, including following the removal of personal protective equipment. A complete record of all incidents, exposures, cleanup, and disposals shall be kept as required by the regulations.

Training and Immunizations: The Library shall provide directly or through System, State, or associational programs, annual in-service training/educational programs for all affected employees. Any employee who has an occupational exposure shall be offered, at no charge, the hepatitis B vaccine series, in accordance with the regulations. Following the report of an exposure incident, the Library will make immediately available to the exposed employee or employees a confidential medical evaluation and follow-up as provided in the regulations

Responsibility

Responsibility for adherence to this policy falls to each employee with the oversight the Facilities Manager

Procedure

As stated above

Approved/Reviewed

Adopted: July 2014

Reviewed: August 2016

Reviewed: February 2019