

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS

Information About Precautions to Prevent the spread of Infectious Diseases

In a school or parish religious education setting, knowing who carries an infectious disease and what germ may be present is not possible. Carriers do not always show outward signs of infection and often are not aware of being infected. All schools/parishes should evaluate current procedures for handling spilled blood and body fluids to insure proper cleaning and disinfection. The following precautions are required:

1. Surfaces soiled with blood, urine, feces, vomitus, etc. should be thoroughly washed with soap and water, then disinfected with a 10% solution of household bleach and water (1 part to 9 parts). This solution should be freshly prepared for each use.
2. Personnel cleaning the spill should wear gloves and wash their hands when they are finished.
3. Disposable towels should be used whenever possible.
4. Mops should be thoroughly rinsed in the disinfectant solution.
5. Handle all discharges from another person's body (particularly body fluids containing blood) with gloves and wash hands thoroughly with soap and running water (for at least 15 seconds).
6. Avoid punctures with objects that may contain blood from others.
7. Carefully dispose of trash that contains body waste and sharp objects. Special containers with plastic liners should be used for disposal of refuse that contains blood or any body spills that contain blood. For disposal of sharp objects, containers that cannot be broken or penetrated should be used.

Students should be encouraged to foster good habits of health and hygiene throughout the school/parish.

It is recommended that students, whether at curricular, co-curricular or extra-curricular activities, not share a common drinking container. Arrangements should be made for all participants to have an individual drinking container.

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