

Universal Precautions Procedures for Block Island School
(as taken from Rhode Island Department of
Elementary and Secondary Education
& Rhode Island Department of Health Policy Guidelines
Related to HIV/Hepatitis, 2006)

Universal precautions are an effective means to prevent the spread of all infectious diseases and will be observed regardless of whether blood-borne pathogens are known to be present. All visible blood and body fluids are to be treated as potentially contaminated, including clothing and surfaces.

The seven procedures to implement Universal Precautions at Block Island School are as follows:

- 1) *Wear disposable gloves.* Disposable gloves should be worn whenever a person finds himself or herself in a position where he/she could be touching another person's blood, body fluid, or contaminated clothing.
- 2) *Wash hands and skin thoroughly.* Washing hands and skin is the single most effective health practice for all viral and bacterial exposure.
- 3) *Properly cover all wounds, cuts, oozing, sores, rashes, etc...*
- 4) *Properly clean up body fluid spills and blood.* Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered disinfectant to clean up blood, body fluid spills, and/or surfaces in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.
- 5) *Properly store or dispose of contaminated clothes.* Clothes soiled with blood, vomit, urine, or fecal matter should be handled while wearing disposable protective gloves, and placed in a disposable, leak-proof, red-colored waste liner that is permanently labeled "BIO-HAZARD WASTE" and permanently labeled with universal symbol and prepared to be transported home.
- 6) *Avoid accidental needle sticks.* Needles are not to be recapped.
- 7) *Use a Sharps Disposal Container.* Needles and other potentially contaminated sharp items shall be discarded in a puncture resistant container (Sharps Disposal Container).

To support the implementation of these procedures, the necessary supplies will be available and current.