Blood Borne Pathogens/ Universal Precautions

Universal precautions are infection control guidelines designed to protect workers from exposure to diseases spread by blood and certain body fluids.

1) **Barrier protection** should be used at all times to prevent skin and mucous membrane contamination with blood, body fluids containing visible blood, or other body fluids (cerebrospinal, synovial, pleural, peritoneal, pericardial, and amniotic fluids, semen and vaginal secretions). The type of barrier protection used should be appropriate for the type of procedures being performed and the type of exposure anticipated. Examples of barrier protection include disposable suits, gloves, eye and face protection.

2) Wear **gloves** when there is potential for hand or skin contact with blood, other potentially infectious material, or items and surfaces contaminated with these materials.

3) Wear **face protection** (face shield/eye protection) during procedures that are likely to generate droplets of blood or body fluid to prevent exposure to mucous membranes of the mouth, nose and eyes.

4) Wear **protective body clothing** (disposable suits) when there is a potential for splashing of blood or body fluids.

5) Wash hands or other skin surfaces thoroughly and immediately if contaminated with blood, body fluids containing visible blood, or other body fluids to which universal precautions apply.

6) Wash hands immediately after gloves are removed.

7) **Avoid accidental injuries** that can be caused by needles, scalpel blades, laboratory instruments, etc. when performing procedures, cleaning instruments, handling sharp instruments, and disposing of used needles, pipettes, etc.

8) Used needles, disposable syringes, scalpel blades, pipettes, and other **sharp items are to be placed in puncture resistant containers** marked with a biohazard symbol for disposal.

Universal precautions were developed for those working in the healthcare field. However, the relevance and applicability of these guidelines to building services operations makes them part of Calvin’s best practice policy. Exposure to potentially infectious material is a very real hazard in your job. It is essential that every precaution be taken in order to prevent exposure to biological pathogens while performing assigned job duties. These guidelines are directly applicable to Blood Borne Pathogen procedures for Building Services employees at Calvin. When the need to deal with a significant blood spill or other potentially infectious material arises, be sure to follow these guidelines in order to protect yourself and those around you.

*If you have been exposed to Blood Borne Pathogens you must complete: Report of Exposure to Blood or other potentially infectious material Post Exposure Evaluation and follow up report (Copies of these forms can be accessed on the EHS portion of the Calvin website. If you have any questions please contact your supervisor or the EHS office.*)