

# **SUBSTANTIAL EXPOSURE TO BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS**

## **DEFINITION OF SUBSTANTIAL EXPOSURE:**

Any percutaneous, mucosal, or non-intact skin contact with the blood or other potentially infectious bodily fluids of another person.

## **SUBSTANTIAL EXPOSURE THAT PRESENTS A POSSIBLE RISK OF TRANSMISSION SHALL BE LIMITED TO: (WAC 246-100-205)**

1. A physical assault upon the exposed person involving blood or semen;
2. Intentional, unauthorized, or nonconsensual use of needles or sharp implements to inject or mutilate the exposed person;
3. An accidental parenteral, mucous membrane, or non-intact skin exposure to blood, semen, or vaginal fluids.

## **WHAT SHOULD WE DO IF AN EMPLOYEE HAS A SUBSTANTIAL EXPOSURE?**

Healthcare facilities are required by federal (OSHA) and state (WISHA) laws to have an **Exposure Control Plan** which gives specific directives for individuals who may have come into contact with bloodborne pathogens at work, including information on post-exposure care, post-exposure medical evaluation, and opening an L&I claim.

## **HOW AND WHEN DOES THE SPOKANE REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT (SRHD) INTERVENE? (RCW 70.24.340)**

### **1. General Public: No SRHD intervention**

Anyone who has a substantial exposure to another person's body fluids as defined above should follow up as soon as possible with a healthcare provider. Additionally, they may ask the person who was the source of the exposure to test for **HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C**, but SRHD cannot require the source to test.

### **2. Specific Employment Categories: SRHD may intervene if source refuses to test.**

Individuals who have had a substantial exposure as defined above while working or volunteering in specific job classifications\* may request that the source of the exposure be tested for **HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C**. If the source refuses testing, the state or local health officer can order the testing. Testing and counseling should be done as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours after the exposure. As a precondition, the health officer may require that the exposed individual also agree to be tested for HIV, Hep B, and Hep C.

For assistance with source testing, call **Maryellen Cooley** at SRHD: **509.324.1544**

\* Employment categories including law enforcement officer, firefighter, health care provider, health care facility staff person, department of corrections' staff person, jail staff person or other job classifications as determined by the board in rule to be at risk for substantial exposure

## **FOR PHYSICIAN CONSULTATION ON POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS, HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS MAY CALL:**

**The National Clinicians' Post Exposure Prophylaxis Hotline (PEpline): 1.888.448.4911**