

## **FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES OF NORTH IDAHO**

### **COMMUNICABLE DISEASES – UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS**

Communicable diseases occur when bacteria or viruses from one person enter the body of another person. When a person is bleeding, there is an easy pathway for infection. If one makes contact with an injured person's blood and has a cut, scrape, or sore, a path exists for infection to enter the body. To reduce the risk of infection while assisting others universal precautions are to be taken.

Universal precautions consist of the following:

1. Avoid being splashed by blood and/or body fluids.
2. Place a barrier between you and the victim's blood and/or body fluids. Latex gloves should always be worn when providing care.
3. Wash hands thoroughly with soap immediately after providing care.
4. Avoid touching objects that may have been contaminated with blood and/or body fluids.
5. Avoid touching objects that you may contaminate with blood and/or body fluids.
6. Avoid handling any of your personal items when providing care for someone who is bleeding.

There may be a need to clean up blood due to an accident or injury. The following is to be observed when cleaning blood.

1. Wear gloves during clean up.
2. Wipe blood up with an absorbent towel.
3. Apply disinfectant to the area.
4. Discard the towel in the trash.

## **HEPATITIS B VACCINE**

- All healthcare workers at risk of blood exposure should have the Hepatitis B vaccine  
Consists of a three (3) dose series.
- Complete the series and then get checked for antibodies no sooner than 8 weeks after the last dose
- Check with Employee Health if you have questions on the Hepatitis B vaccine.