

Title:	Bloodborne Pathogens Policy		
Department/Service Line:	Laboratory		
Approver(s):	CLIA Director		
Location/Region/Division:	NTX		
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SCOPE

This policy applies to NTX Laboratory employees.

DEFINITIONS

When used in this document with initial capital letter(s), the following word(s)/phrase(s) have the meaning(s) set forth below unless a different meaning is required by context. Additional defined terms may be found in the BSWH P&P Definitions document.

Standard Precautions (formerly referred to as Universal Precautions): An approach to Infection Control that mandates that all human blood and other body fluids are treated as if known to be infectious for HIV, HBV and other bloodborne pathogens.

PPE: personal protective equipment

NTX: North Texas

POLICY

NTX Laboratories will have a documented infection control plan that complies with the OSHA Standard on occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens, and to the facility's exposure control plan.

The plan will include the following elements:

- PPE instruction
- Policies and procedures for handling needles and sharps
- Policy prohibiting smoking, eating, drinking, applying cosmetics and lip balm, manipulating contact lenses and mouth pipetting in all technical areas.
- Procedures for the procurement, transportation and handling of patient specimens to ensure that all specimens are submitted in an appropriately labeled and well-constructed container with a secure lid to prevent leakage during transport.
- Procedures for pneumatic tube system must include packaging, spill response and appropriate decontamination.
- Procedures for handling spills of blood or other body fluids
- Policy defining the Hepatitis B vaccination program
- Policy for viral exposure follow-up

PROCEDURE

Ensure that training and documentation complies with the policies and procedures outlined by the BSWH Infection Prevention and Control Policies and the Environment of Care Policy on PPE to include at minimum:

- Maintaining and providing all necessary personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Maintaining engineering controls (i.e. sharps containers) labels and bags.
- Ensuring adequate supplies are available in the appropriate sizes.
- Providing departmental specific education regarding the Exposure Control Plan.

- Maintaining an awareness of what personnel require training.
- Maintaining appropriate training documentation (records must be kept 5 years).
- Working closely with the Infection Control/Epidemiology to assist in implementation of the Exposure Control Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Personal Protective Equipment (BSWH.ECEM.Safety.17.P)
General Infection Control (BSWH.IPC.010.P)
Baylor Scott and White Safe Choice Plan (BSWH.HR.BNFT.002.P)
Infection Control Practices for Labs (NTX.LAB.SAF.0610.P)

REFERENCES

Laboratory General Checklist, College of American Pathologists
Bloodborne Pathogens Standard, 29CFR1910.1030 OSHA

REVISION HISTORY

Version #	Effective Date	Description of Change	Revised By	Removed Date
2	See signatures	Updated related internal documents	Donna Roberts	