



Practical Safety



The Occupational Safety & Health Administration implemented standard precautions and infection control policies to help prevent injury and illness attributed to blood-borne pathogens and infectious/hazardous materials. Follow the suggestions detailed below consistently to help insure against injury/illness.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- Identify the biological and non-biological hazards in your job
- Know how to protect yourself
- Read the labels carefully
- Ask for help/explanation, if needed
- Ensure all specimens are securely closed prior to transport
- Take your time and pay attention to your actions

ACCIDENT PREVENTION

- Recognize hazardous/unsafe conditions
- Remove the problem if you are capable and qualified and report the problem
- Report the problem
- Be aware and report cords & wiring that may present a tripping or electrical hazard
- Avoid excessive extreme heat and cold exposure
- Store and retrieve overhead items/storage properly

WASH YOUR HANDS

- Before and after any patient contact
- Before and after using the restroom
- Following glove removal
- After touching excretions and secretions
- After using sharps/invasive devices
- After handling/transporting specimens

CREATE BARRIERS

- Wear gloves, masks, protective eyewear, when appropriate
- Wear gloves any time there is a possibility of contact with bodily fluids or contaminates
- Do not use oil-based lotions/creams, as they damage the effectiveness of gloves

PRACTICE ASEPTIC TECHNIQUES

- Wash your hands
- Only use sterile materials
- Identify the 'sterile field'
- Monitor and maintain the 'sterile field'
- Dispense items in a manner that preserves the sterility of items and integrity of the sterile field

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