

## **OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE TO BLOODBORNE AND AIRBORNE PATHOGENS**

### **Policy:**

All employees/students of the College shall exercise “Standard Precautions” in relation to exposure situations. The College shall develop a written exposure control plan and implement such procedures as deemed necessary to carry out the plan, to eliminate or minimize requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration Final Rule 29 CFR Part 1910.1030 and will include at a minimum:

1. Determination of exposure
2. Methods of compliance
3. Hepatitis B vaccination
4. Post-exposure evaluation and follow up
5. Communication of hazards to employees/students
6. Record keeping
7. Procedures for evaluations of circumstances surrounding exposure incidents

### **Procedures for Eliminating or Minimizing Occupational Exposure of Employees/Students to Blood, Body Fluid, and Airborne Pathogens**

1. Each employee/student who has been determined to have occupational exposure to blood, body fluid, or air-borne pathogens shall be trained in “Standard Precautions” by an appropriate in-service presented during the first week of class every fall and spring semesters.
2. Each employee/student is notified if their job classification/program of study is classified as having occupational exposure in the Exposure Control Plan. This is the responsibility of the Program Chair.
3. Each identified employee/student shall be informed of methods of compliance, to include standard precautions, engineering and work practice control, personal protective equipment (PPE), and housekeeping, as described in the Exposure Control Manual.
4. Following a report of an exposure incident, the incident should be reported as required in the College Policy.
5. Warning labels and signs will be displayed as required in the Exposure Manual and appropriate information and training will be provided.
6. A record of each employee /student with occupational exposure shall be kept in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the College Exposure Control Manual.
7. Appropriate documentation of training shall be maintained on all appropriate employees/students as described in the Exposure Control Manual.

### **Prevention of Disease Transmission:**

The prevention of disease transmission is an integral part of dental health care delivery. As a health care team member, the dental professional has an increased occupational risk of disease transmission. Application of infection control principles to protect patients benefits the dental team members, and their families.

### **Clinician Factors:**

1. Hepatitis B immunization is highly recommended. As a dental professional, there is increased occupational risk for exposure to Hepatitis B. Therefore, students **MUST** show evidence of completed HBV vaccination; or sign a declination form provided by Hinds Community College.

2. Students must have proof of current immunizations as required by Hinds Community College.
3. Personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn whenever exposure to blood or other potential infectious material is reasonably anticipated. Clinical attire will consist of approved Dental Assisting uniform and lab coat. Rules for uniform dress can be found in the Dental Assisting Guidelines.
4. Hair must be secured away from face and off the shoulders. Wedding bands and plain watch are allowed. No other jewelry is allowed. Nails must be short and cuticles trimmed. Good personal hygiene is mandatory.