



Potential for Exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens or Bodily Fluids When Implementing Bleeding Control Measures

The potential for exposure to blood is possible when implementing bleeding control measures. It is important to be prepared with personal protective equipment when assisting a person with bleeding control. Personal protective equipment such as gloves, goggles or face shields help protect responders from having significant exposures to blood borne pathogens.

In Iowa, a process has been developed to conduct testing to identify if contagious or infectious disease may have been transmitted to a responder. Iowa Administrative Code 641.11.23 "Exposures in non-clinical settings" outlines processes, notifications, and protections provided to the responder and the source person.

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/iac/rule/12-11-2013.641.11.23.pdf>

If a responder has a significant exposure to blood or other body fluids while providing emergency assistance, the following steps should be followed:

1. The responder will file a significant exposure report (Infectious Disease Exposure Report Form) as soon as reasonably possible following the exposure with the infection control, occupation health or other designated office at the facility to which the person was transported and/or treated. The form is available at all Iowa hospitals.
2. The hospital, clinic, or other health care facility that the source person is transported and/or treated will conduct testing for blood borne infectious diseases on the source person and the responder.
3. If it is determined that a source patient has a contagious or infectious disease, the hospital, clinic, or other health care facility performing the test shall notify the responder. The notification shall advise the responder of possible exposure to a particular contagious or infectious disease and recommend medical attention.

