

<p style="text-align: center;">STATE OF VERMONT AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan</b></p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Page 1 of 3</b></p>						
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHAPTER: PROGRAMS – HEALTH CARE SERVICES</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>#352</b></p>	<p><b>Supersedes: #351.03, dated 11/30/1992</b></p>							
<p><b>Local Procedure(s) Required:</b> No  <b>Applicability:</b> All staff (including contractors and volunteers)  <b>Security Level:</b> “B” – Anyone may have access to this document.</p>									
<p><b>Approved:</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; border: none;"><u>SIGNED</u></td> <td style="width: 33%; border: none;"><u>03/28/2024</u></td> <td style="width: 33%; border: none;"><u>04/12/2024</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Nicholas J. Deml, Commissioner</td> <td style="border: none;">Date Signed</td> <td style="border: none;">Date Effective</td> </tr> </table>				<u>SIGNED</u>	<u>03/28/2024</u>	<u>04/12/2024</u>	Nicholas J. Deml, Commissioner	Date Signed	Date Effective
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**PURPOSE**

This policy identifies the Vermont Department of Corrections’ (DOC) procedures to control exposure to bloodborne pathogens.

**AUTHORITY**

28 V.S.A. §§ 801; and 808.

**DEFINITIONS**

Bloodborne Pathogens: Pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA): The federal agency, which oversees work site safety issues for the U.S. Department of Labor.

Personal Protective Equipment: Specialized clothing or equipment worn by an employee for protection against a hazard such as gloves, gowns, laboratory coats,

face shields or masks, eye protection, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, pocket masks, etc.

Qualified Health Care Professional (QHCP): Any person who by virtue of their education, credentials, and experience is permitted by law to evaluate and care for patients. This includes physicians, physician's assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, dentists, and mental health professionals.

Source Individual: Any individual, living, or deceased, whose blood or other potentially infectious materials may be a source of occupational exposure.

Universal Precautions: A method of infection control that requires departments and employees to assume that all human blood and specified human body fluids are infectious for HIV, HBV, and other bloodborne pathogens. Where differentiation of types of body fluids is difficult or impossible, all body fluids are to be considered potentially infectious.

## **POLICY**

The DOC's policy is to comply with all aspects of the State of Vermont Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual, Number 17.5 – *Bloodborne Pathogens*; and OSHA's Standard 1910.1030, *Bloodborne Pathogens*. There may be times when DOC staff, contractors, volunteers, or incarcerated individuals are exposed to bodily fluids in the course of their duties.

To that end, the DOC adopted a Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan to eliminate or minimize the exposure to bloodborne pathogens through universal precautions. The DOC's bloodborne pathogen procedures address the provision of first aid or cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); direct exposure to bodily fluids; exposure to contaminated or used hypodermic needles; and how to handle contamination of work sites. The DOC provides staff, contractors, and volunteers with procedures to follow in specific situations that may expose them to bloodborne pathogens.

The DOC also coordinates the training of all incarcerated individuals who may be exposed to bloodborne pathogens as part of their facility employment. The training is designed to help protect the workers and others from bloodborne

pathogen exposure. It includes universal precautions and safe handling procedures. In addition, the DOC offers the Hepatitis B vaccine to incarcerated individuals who are exposed to bloodborne pathogens as part of their facility employment if they are not immune.