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**To:** District Superintendents  
Superintendents of Public and  
Nonpublic Schools  
Charter School Administrators  
School Health Personnel

**From:** Renee L. Rider

**Subject:** Blood Borne Pathogens in Classrooms

The Department would like to remind all educators to avoid blood borne pathogen (disease) and bodily fluid exposure in the classroom and in science laboratories. Blood borne pathogens may transmit diseases such as HIV and hepatitis. The National Science Teachers Association and the National Association of Biology Teachers recommend that artificial blood and fluids available from reputable suppliers be used in place of human blood and other body fluids. However in all cases, Standard Precautions, which are infection control measures, should always be practiced when handling blood or body fluids or materials contaminated with such. To minimize this risk to students and educators, the following steps should be followed:

- Use artificial blood and fluids available from reputable suppliers in place of human blood and other body fluids as recommended by the National Science Teachers Association and the National Association of Biology Teachers. In cases where such substitution is not possible, educators should discuss any lesson plan involving human blood or other bodily fluids with licensed school health professionals to be certain the lesson plan and any instruments or devices to be used during the lesson will meet current health and safety requirements.
- Use Standard Precautions at all times when handling human blood and/or body fluids (see CDC link below). Standard Precautions assumes that all blood and/or body fluids are potentially infectious. Hand washing with soap and water or hand sanitizing with an alcohol-based hand rub should always be performed before and after removing gloves.
- Clean and disinfect any equipment that is intended for use by multiple persons and that could be exposed to blood and/or body fluids according to manufacturer's instructions before being used by another person. If the manufacturer does not provide specific

cleaning and disinfection instructions, the device must not be shared (<http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/blood-glucose-monitoring.html> ).

- Never share glucometers and/or other diabetes care equipment (e.g., lancets, lancet pens) between people. Some older equipment may have manufacturer instructions for cleaning and disinfection. However, recent evidence suggests that such cleaning and disinfection may not be sufficient to prevent the spread of infection (<http://www.fda.gov/forconsumers/consumerupdates/ucm129955.htm>).
- Always follow the school or district's Exposure Control Plan for cleaning of blood spills, disposing of sharp devices (e.g. needles, lancets), and handling items that may be contaminated with blood or body fluids as required by the United States Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the New York State Department of Labor's Public Employee Safety and Health Bureau (PESH).

Information on blood borne pathogens, exposure control plans, and additional resources for schools are available on the Education Department's technical assistance center's website - The Statewide School Health Services Center at <http://www.schoolhealthservicesny.com/a-zindex.cfm?subpage=306>

Additional information is available on the following websites:

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/settings/outpatient/outpatient-settings.html>
- United States Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA):  
[https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_id=10051&p\\_table=STANDARDS](https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_id=10051&p_table=STANDARDS)
- National One & Only Campaign:  
<http://www.oneandonlycampaign.org>
- New York State Department of Health One and Only Campaign:  
Insulin pen safety poster: (for patients or providers)  
[http://oneandonlycampaign.org/sites/default/files/upload/pdf/SIPC\\_insulinpen\\_BeAware\\_11x17\\_final\\_508Compliant.pdf](http://oneandonlycampaign.org/sites/default/files/upload/pdf/SIPC_insulinpen_BeAware_11x17_final_508Compliant.pdf)  
Insulin pen brochure (for providers)  
[http://oneandonlycampaign.org/sites/default/files/upload/pdf/brochure\\_insulinpen\\_final\\_508Compliant.pdf](http://oneandonlycampaign.org/sites/default/files/upload/pdf/brochure_insulinpen_final_508Compliant.pdf)  
Bloodborne pathogens training module  
<http://www.oneandonlycampaign.org/content/bloodborne-pathogens-training>