

# Protocols for Needle Stick Injury & Splash of Blood or Body Fluid

Call Vancouver Coastal Health Communicable Disease (CD) Control at (604) 675-3900 or your local public health office for an assessment and advice. If you cannot reach someone in Public Health, follow the protocol.

## Protocol for a Needle Stick Injury

In case of a **needle stick injury to a child or staff member** in a child care centre or at school:

- Don't panic. The risk of serious infection is low.
- Allow the pricked area or wound to bleed freely. Do not squeeze it.
- Wash the area with soap and warm water immediately. Do not use bleach or alcohol as they will irritate the wound.

## Protocol for a Splash of Blood or Body Fluid

In case of a **splash of blood or body fluid to the eye, nose or mouth:**

- Don't panic. The risk of serious infection in a day care centre or school setting is low.
- Rinse well with tap water for 10 – 15 minutes.

## If the injury or splash is to a child

- Contact the parents.
- Call and ask for the CD nurse on call at 604-675-3900 right away.
- After hours, immediately take the child to the nearest hospital emergency department. In Vancouver, go to BC Children's Hospital.
- Child care centre management must report the incident to the Licensing Officer.

## If the injury or splash is to a staff member

- Report to your supervisor immediately. If you cannot do this, leave a message for your supervisor.
- Call and ask for the CD nurse on call at 604-675-3900 right away.
- After hours, go immediately to the nearest hospital emergency department as soon as possible.
- For follow-up counselling, see your doctor or occupational health services department.
- Complete WorkSafeBC reports.
- Child care centre management must report the incident to the Licensing Officer.

See page 5 for Hospitals in VCH

