

WORK PRACTICE CONTROLS

Work practice controls reduce the likelihood of exposure to potentially infectious materials by ensuring that procedures performed in the facility are performed using the safest technique possible. The fundamental work practice control is Universal Precautions. The health care worker must recognize the potential risks and make the decision of what necessary steps will be taken to maximize protection. Risks can be minimized or eliminated by following simple work practice rules.

POLICY: The following work practice controls will be followed:

- Avoid hand-to-face contact while working
- Do not eat, drink, apply cosmetics, handle contact lenses or smoke in patient care areas
- Do not put food or drinks in lab refrigerators or freezers
- Wash hands when gloves are removed
- Do not answer phone or use computer while wearing gloves.
- Do not recap needles (unless using "scooping techniques" or mechanical means)
- Cover corks with gauze when opening vacutainers
- Never reach into waste containers that might have contaminated waste
- No mouth pipetting
- Decontaminate work areas as needed
- Ask coughing patients to wear a surgical mask or turn their heads and use a tissue
- Let falling objects (e.g. needle, tube of blood) fall
- SLOW DOWN - most accidents happen when you are rushing!
