

HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) INFECTION/AIDS

The spread of HIV, the virus which causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is not likely to spread from one child to another in a child care setting, and no such case has ever been documented. Since children infected with this virus may be in child care, this information is provided to further reduce the extremely unlikely possibility of spread. Child care providers **need not** be informed of the HIV status of a child to protect the health of caregivers or other children in the child care environment. Parents may choose to inform the child care providers to support a request that the caregiver observes the child closely for signs of illness that may require medical attention.

- CAUSE:** Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)
- SYMPTOMS:** HIV commonly attacks the immune system, leaving people susceptible to a variety of infections. Symptoms will depend on the type of infection. Children may experience no symptoms, or they may have symptoms such as diarrhea, fever, weight loss, or failure to thrive.
- SPREAD:** HIV has been found in blood, semen, vaginal fluids, saliva, urine, tears, breast milk and other body fluids, but transmission has **NOT** been shown to occur from contact with fluids other than blood, semen, vaginal fluids and breast milk. In adults, the virus is most often spread through sexual contact or by sharing needles. Most children who are infected acquire the virus from their infected mothers during pregnancy or at the time of birth. Some children have been infected through transfusions of blood products that contained HIV. It may be possible, but unlikely in the child care setting, for spread to occur by getting blood from an infected person into open cuts, scrapes, the mouth, or eyes of another person. HIV is **NOT** spread by coughing, sneezing, hugging, or by contact with eating utensils, faucets, or toilet seats.
- INCUBATION:** It may take less than 6 months to 15 years or longer after exposure for symptoms of AIDS to appear.
- CONTAGIOUS PERIOD:** Probably from the time of infection throughout the remainder of the person's life.



An HIV-infected child may attend child care unless the child shows unusually aggressive behavior (biting, frequent scratching), has open sores that cannot be covered or bleeding conditions. HIV-infected children with these conditions should be assessed by a team which includes the child's parents or guardians, the child's physician, public health personnel, and the proposed child care provider to determine the most appropriate child care setting. Children in child care settings who are infected with HIV, may have weakened immune systems. This would make them more likely to have serious complications from infections such as chickenpox, cryptosporidiosis, or CMV if and when these diseases are occurring in the child care center. Parent/guardians of infected children should contact their physician to decide whether the child should stay in child care when these illnesses occur.

Adults who are infected with HIV may work in child care settings, if they do not have any medical conditions (open and uncoverable sores) which would allow potentially infective body fluids (blood, semen, vaginal secretions, breast milk etc.) to come into contact with others. Because HIV-infected staff may be at increased risk of exposure to childhood illness, they should consult their physicians about the advisability of working in a child care facility.




Provider: this disease is reportable to the health department. In Douglas County, call 444-7214. Outside Douglas County, call your local or state health department.

Parents/guardians: inform you child care provider if your child has this illness.



1. Routine screening for HIV antibody status before a child enters child care is not necessary or recommended. The responsibility for determining whether a child is at risk and if the child should be tested rests with the individual's physician and family.
2. In the event of an exposure to HIV, contact a physician immediately. A person who has had a significant exposure may need to be treated with antiviral drugs.

3. Children should not share toothbrushes.
4. Cleaning and Disinfecting or Sanitizing of blood and body fluid spills.
 - a. Surfaces and objects contaminated with blood must be cleaned with detergent and water and disinfected or sanitized immediately. HIV may be spread by contact with blood. This virus, as well as other infectious germs, may be found in blood and other body fluids even when there are no symptoms to suggest infection is present.




1. Bleach Sanitizer (Use non-scented)

- 1 teaspoons bleach in 1 gallon water
- 1/4 teaspoon bleach in 1 quart water

Use test strip to check concentration. Do not rinse. Air dry.
PREPARE FRESH SOLUTION DAILY.

OR

2. Commercial or food grade sanitizer that is EPA approved
FOLLOW MANUFACTURER'S DIRECTIONS.



1. Bleach Disinfectant

- 1/4 cup bleach in a gallon of water
- 1 tablespoon bleach in a quart of water

PREPARE FRESH SOLUTION DAILY.

OR

2. Commercial disinfectant that is EPA approved
FOLLOW MANUFACTURER'S DIRECTIONS.

- b. Wear disposable gloves when handling blood (nosebleeds, cuts) or items, surfaces, or clothing, contaminated with blood or bloody body fluids.
 - c. Wash hands immediately after contact with any body fluids, even if gloves have been worn. Wash thoroughly and vigorously with soap and running water for at least 20 seconds. If hand sanitizers are used, they may be used only after thorough handwashing.
5. Diagnosis: Infection with HIV can be diagnosed by a blood test.



For more information, you or your physician may call the Douglas County Health Department at 444-7214, or your local health department.