

## Blood Borne Virus (BBV) Contamination Incidents

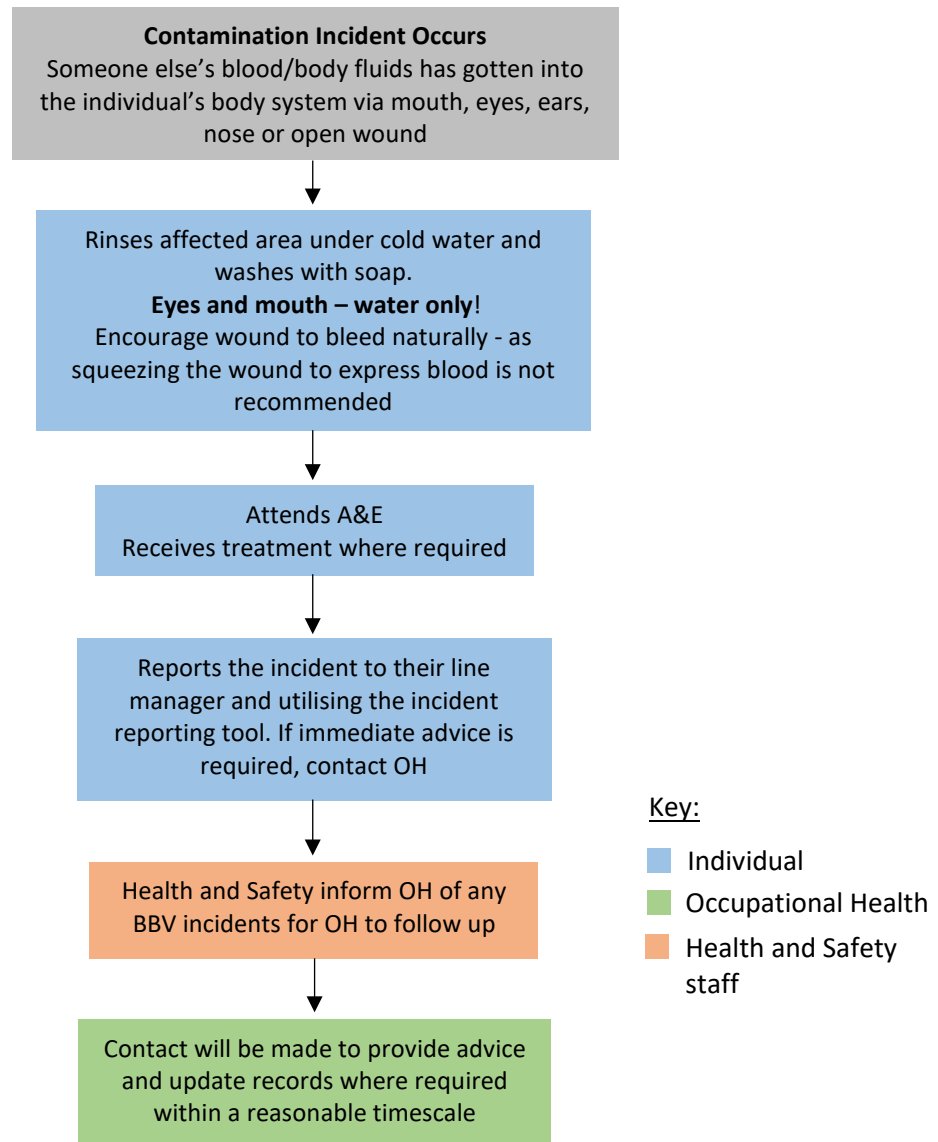
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## Flowchart



## Policy Statement

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### Summary

West Yorkshire Police (WYP) has established procedures to reduce the risk of individuals contracting an infectious disease if they are exposed to another person's blood or body fluid during the course of their work.

This procedure includes:

- Identification of risk through the force Risk Assessment policy;
  - The provision of information, instruction and training including appropriate equipment;
  - Provision of vaccinations for Hepatitis B; and
  - Procedures to follow in the event of exposure occurring.
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### Scope

This policy applies to all police officers, police staff, special constables and those working voluntarily.

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## Principles

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### Blood Borne Virus (BBV)

- Blood Borne Viruses (BBVs) are viruses that some people carry in their blood, and which may cause severe disease in certain people and few or no symptoms in others.
  - The virus can spread to another person, whether the carrier of the virus is ill or not.
  - BBV can also be found in body fluids other than blood, for example, semen, vaginal secretions and breast milk. Other body fluids or materials such as urine, faeces, saliva, sputum, sweat, tears and vomit carry a minimal risk of BBV infection, unless they are contaminated with blood. Care should still be taken as the presence of blood is not always obvious.
  - The most effective control measure is the prevention of any body fluids entering the body which can be achieved by the following:
    - Wearing gloves when dealing with situations involving body fluids;
    - Covering all breaks in exposed skin by using waterproof dressings and suitable gloves/overalls;
    - When possible, avoiding use of, or exposure to, sharps such as needles, glass, metal etc., or if unavoidable taking care in handling and disposal to prevent puncture wounds; and
    - Prohibiting eating, drinking, smoking and the application of cosmetics in working areas where there is a risk of contamination.
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### Contamination Incident

- A Contamination incident is where someone else's blood/body fluids has gotten into the individual's body system via mouth, eyes, ears, nose or open wound.
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- Following an exposure to blood or other body fluids, the exposed site must be immediately cleansed as follows:
    - For skin exposures, the site must be washed with soap and water. Small wounds and punctures may also be cleansed with an antiseptic, for example an alcohol-based hand hygiene solution. Alcohol-based agents have the capacity to deactivate viruses like HIV, hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV).
    - In cases of mucosal exposure, the exposed mucous membranes (eyes, nose and/or mouth) must be flushed with plenty of water. Eyes must be irrigated with saline solution or water. If wearing contact lenses, irrigation must be before and after removing of contact lenses.
  - Squeezing the wound to express blood is not recommended.
  - Individuals must then attend Accident and Emergency (A&E), taking a copy of the Incident Reporting form, if applicable.
  - It may be advised that, due to the contamination, the individual should attend a Genitourinary Medicine (GUM) Clinic.
  - Individuals must report the incident to their line manager as soon as practicable. The Incident Reporting Tool must also be utilised to record details of the incident on duty (IOD).
  - Health and Safety will notify Occupational Health (OH) of any incidents reported via the incident reporting system. OH will contact individuals concerned to offer advice and/or follow up actions.
  - If the individual or line manager have any concerns, they can contact OH directly for advice.
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## Responsibilities

### All Officers and Staff

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- Responsibilities** Police officers and police staff are responsible for:
- Following the procedures detailed within this policy;
  - Adhering to safe systems of work; and
  - Wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
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### Force Health and Safety Team

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- Responsibilities** The Force Health and Safety Team are responsible for:
- Identifying, through the risk assessment arrangements, activities and groups of individuals who are potentially exposed to BBV;
  - Notifying Occupational Health of these groups, for inclusion in the Hepatitis B Vaccination programme;

- Notify Occupational Health of incidents reported on the incident reporting system, to allow OH to investigate and offer follow up advice; and
  - Notifying the People Directorate with Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) incidents to be submitted to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).
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## Occupational Health

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- Responsibilities** Occupational Health are responsible for:
- Providing up to date advice and guidance to individuals on contamination incidents;
  - Offering follow up screening for Hepatitis C and B if clinical assessment indicates;
  - Offering and administering the vaccination programme to all groups identified by the Health and Safety risk assessment;
  - Notifying the Health and Safety team of RIDDOR incidents to allow Health and Safety to investigate and offer advice; and
  - Maintaining good clinical records.
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## Training

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- Responsibilities** Training are responsible for:
- Providing the appropriate training for staff that are identified as undertaking activities that carry the risk of contamination. The training that will be provided will cover:
    - The control measures to mitigate the risk;
    - The appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);
    - Any vaccination arrangements that are in place and how to access them; and
    - Any local Safe systems of work relevant to their particular work activity e.g. CSI/Evidence stores.
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## Additional Information

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**Compliance**

This policy complies with the following legislation and policy:

- Health and Safety at Work 1974
  - Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002
  - Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
  - Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013
  - Data Protection Act 2018
  - Risk Assessment (Health and Safety) policy
  - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) policy
  - Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Hepatitis C policy
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**Further Information**

- Further guidance in relation to this policy can be sought from Occupational Health.
  - Details of the West Yorkshire Police vaccination programme.
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