



Oregon
Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division (OR-OSHA)
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February 26, 1998

Reviewed: October 12, 2007

Melda Schiemer
1051 Riverview Dr.
Nyssa, OR 97913

Dear Ms. Schiemer:

This is in response to your letter of January 29, 1998, requesting information regarding bodily fluid contamination and tuberculosis.

We currently have a rule that addresses employee contact with potentially infectious bodily fluids, such as blood, semen, and vaginal secretions. It does not cover saliva except when there is blood present or during dental work, and urine and feces are also not covered unless there is blood present or if it is impossible to tell.

When an employee begins work in an industry where there is a reasonable potential of exposure to these potentially infectious materials, the employer must provide training on the hazards, protection measures, and what to do if an exposure occurs. When there is the reasonable possibility that an exposure may occur in any given situation, protective equipment must be provided by the employer and used by the employee to keep any and all infectious materials away from work clothing, street clothes, undergarments, skin, eyes, mouth, or mucous membranes. The employer is also responsible for cleaning all protective equipment.

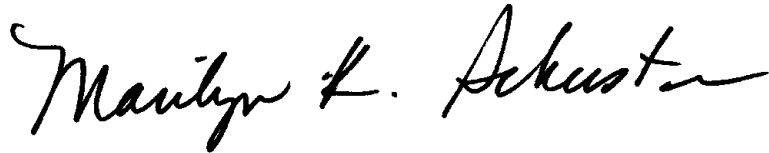
When clothing that is not used as protective equipment is contaminated, it must be removed immediately or as soon as the circumstances reasonably allow, and cannot be laundered at home, as the employer cannot ensure that it is handled properly. Clothing that is contaminated can transmit bloodborne pathogens, especially hepatitis, if they are not washed properly.

Tuberculosis is spread by droplets exhaled by a person that has an active case. When these droplets dry, the bacteria dies. We have attached a brochure developed by the Center for Disease Control that addresses many of the questions you may have about tuberculosis.

You also inquired about the heat required to kill HIV, TB, and hepatitis. The standard temperature used by autoclaves is about 250 degrees Fahrenheit at a pressure of about 15 psi, for 30 minutes.

We hope this answers your question regarding this matter. If you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance, please contact David McLaughlin at (503) 947-7457.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marilyn K. Schuster". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping underline.

Marilyn K. Schuster, Manager
Standards and Technical Resources Section
Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division