

COSHH Guidance

Bodily Fluids

Hazards

- ▶ Blood
- ▶ Vomit
- ▶ Urine
- ▶ Faeces
- ▶ Saliva

How they could cause harm

- ▶ Source of infectious micro-organisms including bacteria and viruses
- ▶ Risk of infection through:
 - Contact with skin
 - Accidental ingestion or inhalation
 - Accidental injection through a needle or other sharps such as broken glass

Control measures

- ▶ PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) - gloves, aprons, coveralls etc.
- ▶ Take care when handling potentially hazardous bodily fluids
- ▶ Cordon off area (where possible)
- ▶ Use any body spill kits available
- ▶ Clean up any spills immediately

Decontamination

- ▶ Assume that any spillage of bodily fluids is potentially infectious
- ▶ Clean and disinfect the area after the task
- ▶ Ensure there is a system to decontaminate PPE and work clothing
- ▶ Wash hands after working with any cleaning products or bodily fluids even when gloves have been worn and especially before eating or drinking
- ▶ Practice good hand care – remove contaminants promptly, wash hands properly, dry thoroughly and use skin creams regularly

Line manager's responsibilities

- Training & Supervision**
- ▶ Provide supervision and training – ensure that safe work practices are followed
 - ▶ Inform workers of any risks that may be present
 - ▶ Risk and COSHH assessments should be made available to staff working with hazardous substances

Health Surveillance

Health surveillance with Occupational Health supplier may be required if exposure to hazardous substances is ongoing or ill health effects are noted.