Kentucky Local Health Department (LHD)

**Exposure Control Plan**

The LHD solicited input on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (date) on appropriate engineering controls and medical devices from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ representing clinical and laboratory staff. It was determined that the following engineering controls and/medical devices would be used to reduce the likelihood of Needle-stick and other sharps injuries:

**The effectiveness/usefulness of these controls was evaluated on in the following manner**:

The LHD has designated \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, an employee of the department, to **annually review** the exposure control plan and recommend necessary updates/revisions.

**With the exception of the Bloodborne pathogens standards revisions effective April 18, 2001**, the specifications of this subsection will be observed by LHD staff and will be reviewed as part of the annual program/service planning process.

The LHD will provide hand-washing facilities which are readily accessible to employees.

When conducting clinics or performing services at sites in the home or outside a health center where hand washing is not available, the health department will provide either antiseptic towelettes or an appropriate antiseptic hand cleanser along with clean cloth/paper towels. When antiseptic hand cleansers or towelettes are used, hands will be washed with soap and running water when the employee returns to a place where hand washing facilities are available.

The LHD will instruct employees to wash their hands immediately or as soon as feasible after removal of gloves or other personal protective equipment.

The LHD will ensure that employees wash hands, and any other skin with soap water, or flush mucous membranes with water immediately, or as soon as feasible following contact of such body areas with blood or other potentially infectious materials.

Contaminated needles and other contaminated sharps will not be bent, recapped, or removed from an attached device unless the employee can demonstrate that no alternative is feasible or that such action is required by a specific medical procedure. Recapping or needle removal must be accomplished through the use of a mechanical device or a one-handed technique. Shearing or breaking of contaminated needles is prohibited. Employees giving care in the home should instruct patients and/or caregivers the need to use puncture resistant containers for the disposal of contaminated needles or other contaminated sharps.

LHDs should also evaluate the safety of using glass capillary tubes. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recommend blood collection devices less prone to accidental breakage *including*:

(1) Capillary tubes that are not made of glass (but made of plastic)
(2) Glass capillary tubes wrapped in puncture – resistant film
(3) products that use a method of sealing that does not require manually pushing one end of the tube into putty to form a plug or
(4) Products that allow the hematocrit to be measured without centrifugation.

Eating, drinking, smoking, applying cosmetics or lip balm, and handling contact lenses are prohibited for employees while in the health center or while giving care in a patient’s home, where there is a reasonable likelihood of occupational exposure to potentially infectious materials.

Food and drink will not be kept in refrigerators, freezers, shelves, cabinets, on countertops or bench tops, or in portable insulated coolers where blood or other potentially infectious materials are present.

All procedures involving blood or other potentially infectious materials will be performed in such a manner as to minimize splashing, spraying, spattering and generation of droplets.

Mouth pipetting/suctioning of blood or other potentially infectious materials is prohibited.

Equipment which may become contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials will be examined prior to servicing or transporting and will be decontaminated as necessary unless the LHD can demonstrate that decontamination of such equipment or portions of such equipment is not feasible.

A readily observable label as described in AR Section, DPH Guidelines for LHD Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan for OSHA Compliance, Subsection III. C. 1. under the subheading, [Communication of Hazards, Warning Signs/Labels](#OSHA_CommunicationHazards_WarningLabels) will be attached to the equipment stating which portions remain contaminated.

The LHD will ensure through training and education of staff that appropriate precautions are taken prior to use of or contact with the equipment by employees, the servicing representative, and/or the manufacturer, prior to handling, servicing or shipping.

Specimens of potentially infectious materials will be placed in a container which prevents leakage. Special care shall also be given to the transport of the capillary tubes to prevent leakage.