

# Blood and Body Fluid Spills in Community-based Services

For AHS staff, the *Cleaning of Blood and Body Fluids Hard Surfaces* and *Cleaning Blood and Body Fluids Carpet and Upholstery* guidelines provide details on cleaning blood and body fluids spills from hard surfaces, carpets and upholstery.

Follow these directions to access these protocols:



For AHS staff, exposures to blood and or body fluids must be reported to Workplace Health and Safety (WHS). The AHS Blood and Body Fluid Exposure (BBFE) Policy provides additional information.



For non-AHS staff:

- Perform hand hygiene.
- Use personal protective equipment (PPE) as needed. Protective footwear (i.e. booties) may be required for large spills. Replace personal protective equipment if it becomes damaged or soiled during the cleanup.
- Soak up blood and body fluids with absorbent material (e.g., paper towels or other disposable cloths).
- Change cleaning cloths when cloth is visibly dirty or no longer wet enough to allow for appropriate contact time.
- Restrict activity around the spill until the area has been cleaned, disinfected and completely dry.
- Handle contaminated material as little as possible and with minimal agitation to reduce aerosolization (e.g., do not shake soiled linen).
- Remove contaminated material from area in impervious bags.
- Decontaminate surrounding area.
- Steam clean upholstery/carpet with an industrial carpet cleaner immediately if possible. If one is not available, arrange for the upholstery/carpet to be cleaned as soon as possible. If upholstery cannot be cleaned, or is super saturated with blood and body fluids, it must be reported to the supervisor or manager. The supervisor or manager will determine if upholstery should be disposed of or replaced.
- Remove PPE.
- Wash hands with soap and running water.

Non-AHS staff must follow their agency's/manager's directions for reporting blood and body fluid exposures and follow-up.