

Appendix 2 – Body fluid exposures, PPE breaches and spills

VHF Quick Reference Guide

This quick reference guide is intended to provide the key elements for infection prevention and control in relation to viral haemorrhagic fevers (VHF). For detailed guidance and further advice please refer to the [Queensland Health guideline for infection prevention and control for the management of viral haemorrhagic fevers](#)

VHF Quick Reference Guide

Issue	Recommendation/advice
Blood or body fluid exposures	<p>Immediately following any blood or body fluid exposure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately leave the patient care area. • Doff PPE under the direction of the PPE trained observer. The PPE trained observer may assist in the rapid removal of PPE to facilitate prompt washing or irrigation of the affected skin surfaces or mucous membranes. • Immediately wash affected skin surfaces with soap and water. • Irrigate any involved mucous membranes with copious amounts of water or eyewash solution. • Immediately after affected skin surfaces or mucous membranes have been washed/irrigated contact occupational health/supervisor for assessment and access to post-exposure management services. • Occupational health/infection control/supervisor must arrange an emergency consultation with an Infectious Diseases Physician. Contact your infection control unit for local advice. <p>Refer to Section 6.10 Exposed HCW section of VHF guideline for ongoing actions.</p>
PPE Breach	<p>A PPE breach is any failure of PPE, regardless of whether an actual body fluid exposure occurs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any failure of PPE while in the patient care area or during doffing, for example; a tear, rip, or slippage of an item of PPE, exposing the skin, mucous membranes or clothing. • Failure of the outer gloves without impact on the inner gloves is not considered a PPE breach, unless there is visible blood or body fluid on the inner gloves. <p>Actions to be taken in the event of a PPE breach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately leave the patient care area. • Doff PPE under the direction of the PPE trained observer. <p>Implement blood and body fluid exposure protocol to assess the potential exposure.</p>

Issue	Recommendation/advice
Body fluid spill	<p>Implement usual protocol for body fluid spill management, ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPE is worn as for patient care (current Tier). • Isolate area, using signage if necessary. • Avoid cleaning and disinfecting the spill directly with gloved hands. Use tongs or similar items. • Cleaning materials must be discarded as clinical waste. • Large spills must be confined and contained using absorbent matter. If spill kit is not available, paper towel may be used. Apply absorbent matter to spill. • Directly apply disinfectant solution* to saturate the absorbent material/paper towel. Leave for the recommended contact time for the disinfectant used (see manufacturer’s instructions). • Clean spill area with neutral detergent solution. • Cover spill site again with disinfectant solution* for a further contact time (see manufacturer’s instructions). • Perform a final clean with a neutral detergent solution. <p>*Disinfectant solution containing 5000-ppm available chlorine, or other ARTG-listed disinfectant. For further details refer to Appendix 8 Patient Care Equipment of the VHF guideline.</p>