

HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS

- AIDS is caused by the HIV virus
- HIV is very fragile and will not survive long outside the human body.
- HIV is primarily a concern to employees providing first aid or medical care in situations involving fresh blood or other potentially infectious materials.
- It is estimated that the chances of contracting HIV in a workplace environment are only 0.4%.
- It is important to treat all human blood and bodily fluids as though they were infectious. This practice is known as universal precautions.
- HIV infection usually occurs in 3 broad stages.
- After the initial infection, a person may show few or no signs of the illness for many years.
- The individual may suffer from other diseases, which begin to take advantage of the body's weakened immune system. This stage is believed to eventually lead to AIDS.