

Northwest Florida State College
APPENDIX V

Operating Procedures

Subject: Hepatitis B Vaccinations – Preventive Measures

Hepatitis B is a serious infectious disease caused by a virus that attacks the liver. The hepatitis B virus (HBV) can cause life-long infection that leads to cirrhosis (scarring) of the liver, liver cancer or liver failure. There is no cure for hepatitis B, but the infection can be prevented by vaccination. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccination of everyone age 18 and under, and anyone at high risk for hepatitis B.

Purpose: To provide a safe environment for employees who may be exposed to anticipated skin, eye, mucous membrane, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from the performance of an employee's duties.

Definitions: Parenteral means piercing mucous membranes or the skin barrier through such events as needle sticks, human bites, cuts, and abrasions.

Administration:

In order to provide a safe work environment, the College will make available Hepatitis B vaccinations for employees who might be exposed to the Hepatitis B virus in the course of their job responsibilities. The Hepatitis B vaccinations will be administered at no cost to the employee by a licensed clinic. Such vaccinations will be administered to all custodial and maintenance workers unless declined in writing, and to other employees on a case-by-case elective basis.

The clinic will provide Hepatitis B vaccination training. Employees electing to participate should be willing and committed to the entire series of three injections over a six month period.