

Bloodborne Pathogens

Part 1: An Introduction to Bloodborne Pathogens

Blood is not an everyday part of working in most industries. But when blood does make its way into a workplace, it is very important to be able to handle the situation properly. If a co-worker or visitor is bleeding, knowing the potential dangers of blood and how to properly clean-up the area can be one of the most important pieces of safety information you have ever received.

What is a Bloodborne Pathogen?

Bloodborne Pathogens are microscopic organisms that are invisible to the naked eye. They are disease-causing viruses and bacteria that can result in sickness or even death. They are carried in the human blood stream. Many people who carry bloodborne infections show no visible symptoms. Many people are unaware that they are infected.

Types of Bloodborne Pathogens

Hepatitis B (HBV) & Hepatitis C (HCV)

Hepatitis B & C are bloodborne diseases which cause infection resulting in liver inflammation.

A Person Infected With Hepatitis B or C:

- May suffer flu-like symptoms. It may become so severe that they may require hospitalization.
- Their blood and other body fluids may be infectious.
- There is a vaccine for HBV to prevent infection.

HBV & HCV may be spread to sexual partners, family members, and unborn infants. They may severely damage your liver, leading to cirrhosis and almost certain death. HCV is more infectious than HBV. (Hepatitis A is not a Bloodborne Virus)

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

HIV is a virus that attacks the body's immune system, causing Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). There is no vaccine to prevent infection.

A Person Infected With HIV:

- May carry the virus without any symptoms for years.
- Will eventually suffer from flu-like symptoms, fever, diarrhea, and fatigue.
- May develop AIDS-related illnesses including neurological problems, cancer, and other opportunistic infections.

HIV is transmitted primarily through sexual contact, but may also be transmitted through contact with blood and some body fluids. HIV is not transmitted by touching, eating, or working around people who carry the disease.

Examples of other Bloodborne Pathogens

- Syphilis
- Malaria
- Brucellosis

Always practice **UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS**. This means you have to treat **all blood & Other Potentially Infectious Materials (OPIM)** as if they were infected with bloodborne pathogens.

WHY?

- 1 to 1.5 million people in the United States are unknowingly infected with HIV.
- 0.5 to 1 million people in the United States are unknowingly infected with Hepatitis B & C.



Part 2: Exposure Incidents

The Bloodborne Pathogens Program is a procedure onsite that is designed to eliminate or reduce the risk of occupational exposure to, and transmission of, bloodborne pathogens, as much as possible. You have a copy of this program available to you whenever you may need it, as well as now during training. Please take the time to review the Bloodborne Pathogens Program as part of this Toolbox series.

Body Fluids

- **Blood:** Infectious Body fluids.
- **Potential Infectious Body Fluids (PIBF):** such as sexual fluids, fluids containing visible blood, and saliva in dental procedures.
- **Non-Infectious Body Fluids:** tears, feces, urine, vomit, and perspiration (Remember: these are non-infectious only when they do not contain visible blood).

What is an Exposure Incident ???



Not all incidents involving cuts or body fluids constitute an exposure incident. An **Exposure Incident** is when you have exposure to blood or semen, vaginal fluids, or when feces/sweat/tears/mucous/urine **with visible blood** to your eyes, mouth, nose mucous membrane or non-intact skin (cut, rash, etc.)

How To Respond to an Exposure Incident

Upon exposure, flush the exposed area with copious amounts of water and thoroughly wash area with soap. If the eyes are exposed, use an eye-wash station.

REPORT ALL EXPOSURE INCIDENTS TO A SUPERVISOR IMMEDIATELY!!

If you have had an exposure, certain treatments may be required within 2 hours of exposure. Identify the source of the blood if possible. The Hotel will attempt to gain permission from the source individual for blood tests. If stuck with a needle, bring the needle in a proper container with you to the Emergency Room.

Your Reaction Time Is Very Important!

Post-Exposure Medical Follow-Up

The course of treatment recommended by the healthcare provider will depend on: the nature of exposure, the test results of the source individual, your own blood-test results, and your age and health status.

Medical follow-up may involve blood testing or blood archiving for future blood testing if you do not wish to be tested at this time.

Other follow-up measures may include the Hepatitis B Vaccination series (3 shots over a period of 9 months); in the case of HIV infection, medication to help you remain health for as long as possible and medical counseling may be necessary.

Self –Treatment First Aid Policy

It is the Policy of this company that all injuries to staff or clients are to be “self-treated”. First aid supplies will be provided to the injured person. All wastes from this procedure should be disposed of in a plastic bag. No one is to provide first aid treatment to anyone else except if they have been specifically authorized to do so as the **Designated First Aid Provider**. If the injury is so severe that assistance is necessary, call the necessary emergency number.

In dire life threatening emergencies, employees who choose to over-ride these procedures shall only do so as a last resort and with the knowledge that this is a personal choice made with the awareness of the risks involved and the potential to Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure and other exposures, and that you are acting on your own volition as a “Good Samaritan”.



Safety Toolbox Quiz - Bloodborne Pathogens

Name (Print) _____

Company Name _____

Name (Sign) _____

Date _____ Department _____

1. Microscopic Organisms, such as a bacteria or virus that can cause disease or death, carried in the human blood stream, are called:
 - a. Bloodborne Pathogens
 - b. The Flu
 - c. Vampirism

2. There is a vaccine for _____ and currently there is no vaccine for _____.
(Possible Answers: Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HBV, HCV)

3. An _____ is when you have exposure to blood or semen, vaginal fluids, or when feces/sweat/tears/mucous/urine **with visible blood** to your eyes, mouth, nose mucous membrane or non-intact skin (cut, rash, etc.).
 - a. Human Immunodeficiency Virus
 - b. Exposure Incident
 - c. Confined Space Entry

4. You should treat all Blood or Other Potentially Infectious Materials, as if they were infected with Bloodborne Pathogens.
 - a. True
 - b. False

5. Circle **all** of the following conditions related to Bloodborne Pathogens:
 - a. The Common Cold
 - b. HIV
 - c. Malaria
 - d. Tennis Elbow
 - e. Boogie Woogie Flu