



Bloodborne Pathogens Fact Sheet

What are bloodborne pathogens?

Bloodborne pathogens are microorganisms in human blood or certain body fluids that cause disease in humans. The most common ones are the hepatitis B virus (HBV), which causes a severe form of Hepatitis in some or acts as a carrier in others, and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which causes AIDS.

How do you become infected?

Bloodborne pathogens may be passed on when the microorganisms enter the body through mucus membranes, through breaks in the skin or through needle sticks. In non-medical occupations, exposure is most common when an injured worker's blood contacts a co-worker rendering first aid. Practicing universal precautions and wearing the proper personal protective equipment will prevent exposure.

What are universal precautions?

Universal precautions are methods of preventing infection by treating all human body fluids as if they were contaminated and using proper personal protective equipment whenever you are required to come into contact with these fluids. Qualified, trained first-aid providers should be knowledgeable of these precautions.

What should I do to protect myself?

Personal protective equipment (PPE) includes latex gloves, gowns, mouth pieces, resuscitation bags, face masks and foot protection. Proper use can significantly reduce the health risks for exposed workers. PPE must be readily accessible to the trained employees required to use it.

Bloodborne Pathogens Program

Departments must review the [Bloodborne Pathogens Program](#).

Supervisors must:

- ◆ Identify the individuals by job title (s) who are included in this program, both currently and in the future and ensure that they are trained.
- ◆ Affected employees must be offered Hepatitis B vaccination at no cost to them.
- ◆ Employees who are exposed to blood or other infectious materials must report this to their supervisor and be offered medical consultation immediately.
- ◆ Infectious waste must be disposed of properly.

Training Requirements:

EHS initial and annual refresher training.

Recordkeeping Requirements:

Maintain exposure control plan and training records for 3 years.