

SafetyTalk

Topic: Bloodborne Pathogens

Bloodborne pathogens are microorganisms such as viruses or bacteria that are carried in blood or other body fluids. Examples include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). They can be transmitted through contact with the eye, nose, mouth or through an opening in the skin.

General Safety Tips

- Treat all blood and bodily fluids as if they were infectious.
- Whenever possible, avoid handling potentially infectious materials.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves, face/eye protection, protective sleeves).
- Contain spills and disinfect the area.
- Clean up broken glass with a brush and dustpan.
- Discard needles and other sharp objects in a Sharps container.

According to OSHA, if you are struck by a needle/sharp object, or get blood or other potentially infectious material in your eyes, mouth, nose or on broke skin, immediately flood area with water and clean any wound with soap and water or a skin disinfectant if available. Seek immediate medical attention and report the incident to your employer.

Topics to Discuss

- Emergency procedures
- Exposure control plan
- Identifying related risk exposures (e.g., bloody nose, vomit)
- Personal protective equipment
- Proper disposal of contaminated materials
- Post-exposure evaluation and follow up procedures

Resources

For more information about this topic, visit:

- United Heartland Resource Library – Bloodborne Pathogens: [UnitedHeartland.com/resource-library](https://www.unitedheartland.com/resource-library)
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration – Bloodborne Pathogens: [OSHA.gov](https://www.osha.gov)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Bloodborne Pathogens: [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

SafetyTalk

Topic: Bloodborne Pathogens

Date:

Location:

Meeting Organizer:

Organization Name

Items Discussed:

Problem Areas or Concerns:

Attendees (Names/Signatures):

Comments: