

Bloodborne pathogens (BBP) are viruses that can be present in blood or in "Other Potentially Infectious Material" and cause serious diseases. HIV, Hepatitis B and C are the main viruses of concern.

"Other Potentially Infectious Material" might include any body fluids visibly contaminated with blood among many others.

Bloodborne pathogens can enter your body by:

- a break in the skin (cut, lesion)
- mucus membranes (eyes, nose, mouth)

Job duties that can have BBP exposure

- Picking up discarded syringes in public places
- Providing first aid treatment
- Cleaning up broken containers containing blood or "Other Potentially Infectious Material"

Safe work practices

Don't eat, drink, smoke, apply cosmetics or lip balm, or handle contact lenses in any work areas where there is the possibility of exposure to blood or "Other Potentially Infectious Material"

Don't place food or drink in refrigerators, freezers, shelves, cabinets, countertops or bench tops in any other work areas where blood or OPIM is located.

Don't handle discarded syringes with bare hands.

What to do if you are exposed to blood or "Other Potentially Infectious Material"

Wash needlesticks, cuts, and skin with soap and water.

Flush splashes to the nose and mouth with water.

Irrigate eyes with clean water, saline, or a sterile irrigant.

Report exposure to your supervisor.

Schedule visit to doctor as soon as possible

Develop a BBP exposure control plan



BBP Program Template.doc



Bloodborne Pathogens.doc

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Employees should always wear PPE when they may be exposed to infectious or potentially infectious materials.

Always inspect PPE for cracks, holes or other damage. Never use damaged or contaminated PPE.

Contaminated PPE shall be removed immediately and placed in an approved container. (PPE examples include eye goggles, face shields, gloves, aprons, etc.)

Let's be safe out there!