



SAFETY TOOLBOX

MONTHLY SAFETY AWARENESS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Bloodborne Pathogens

Introductory Comments

What are bloodborne pathogens? Bloodborne pathogens are infectious microorganisms in human blood that can cause disease in humans.

All occupational exposure to blood or **other potentially infectious materials**(OPIM) places workers at risk for infection from bloodborne pathogens. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Needlesticks and other sharps-related injuries may expose workers to bloodborne pathogens. (www.osha.gov)

Instructions:

Use this Safety Toolbox Talk to spark discussion within the employee group. Test knowledge retention with the associated quiz

Meeting Starter Questions

- What are bloodborne pathogens?
- What can be done to control the exposure to bloodborne pathogens?
- What is OPIM?

Critical Safety Points

Blood and other potentially infectious materials (OPIMs) from open wounds could potentially cause HIV, hepatitis, and numerous other serious and potentially fatal diseases. Avenues of infection include skin punctures, small cuts, acne, or sunburn blisters, and your eyes, nose, and mouth (e.g., if you rub your eyes or nose with contaminated gloves or clothing, you've put yourself at risk).

Infectious agents can survive in dried blood for up to seven days. Never assume that if blood or OPIMs are dry, you are not at risk of infections. If you are assigned to clean up a small spill, cover the area containing blood or OPIM with paper towels or rags, pour disinfectant solution over the towels and leave them in place for at least 10 minutes. That will help kill the infectious agents, then you can clean up the spill.

Remember, Safety is not an option, Safety Is The Way We LIVE!



If you are assisting at an accident scene:

- Encourage as much self-care by the victim as possible under the circumstances. For example, if it's a small cut, let the victims apply direct pressure and/or the bandage themselves.
- Wear protective gloves when providing first aid or medical care, when you handle soiled materials or equipment, and when you're cleaning up spills of risky materials.
- Wear protective clothing in cases where splashes or spills of blood are likely and when working with risky materials. Wear face protectors such as splash goggles whenever blood contaminated materials could splash, splatter or spray in your face.

What to do if you are exposed: If you are stuck with a sharp object, get blood in your eye, or are exposed to any bloodborne pathogen:

- Wash the area. Use soap and water on your skin. If your eye is exposed, irrigate with clean water, saline, or a sterile irrigate.
- Report the exposure right away to your supervisor or person in charge. DO NOT decide on your own whether you need more care.
- Get medical help right away. You may need lab tests, medicine, or a vaccine right away. DO NOT delay telling someone after you have been exposed.

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Employee Name:	Signature:
Division:	Date:
Instructor:	Score:

Toolbox Tips- Bloodborne Pathogens

Question 1: When cleaning up blood, pour disinfectant solution over paper towels and leave them in place for 10 minutes?

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

Question 2: Avenues of infection include skin punctures, small cuts, acne, or blisters, and your eyes, nose, and mouth.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

Question 3: When helping an injured person, you should encourage self-care as much as possible for small cuts.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

Question 4: Wear splash goggles whenever blood could splash, splatter or spray in your face.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

Question 5: Infectious agents can survive in dried blood for up to seven days.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

Quiz Answer

Key:

1. TRUE
2. TRUE
3. TRUE
4. TRUE
5. TRUE

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