Bloodborne Pathogens

What are Bloodborne Pathogens?

- Bacteria
- Virus

Warning:
Blood can also be found in other body fluids. As a result, bloodborne pathogens can be transmitted through contact with these fluids as well.
Two specific bloodborne pathogens are:

- Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

Routes of Transmission

Bloodborne pathogens can be transmitted in the following ways:

- Injection
- Mucous membrane exposure
- Sexual Contact
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Who Is At Risk?

Reducing Risk

Both employees and employers need to work at reducing the risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens.

To reduce your risk of exposure, you should:

- Know how bloodborne pathogens can affect you
- Know how you can become infected
- Know how to protect yourself
Reducing Risk

To reduce your risk of exposure, you should:

- Know how they can affect you
- Know how you can become infected
- Know how to protect yourself

Universal Precautions

Your employer must reduce your risk of exposure through:

- Universal precautions
- Engineering controls
- Personal protective equipment
- Safe work practices
Engineering Controls

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- Personal protective equipment
- Safe work practices

Hypodermic syringes with “Self-Sheathing” safety feature

Engineering Controls Example

Retracting lancets with safety features

A container especially designed to accept sharps should be available to safely dispose of any device that may have been exposed to or cause exposure to bloodborne pathogens

Sharps Disposal Container
Your employer must reduce your risk of exposure through:
- Universal precautions
- Engineering controls
- Safe work practices
- Personal protective equipment

OSHA requires your employer to:
- Establish a written program
- Develop engineering controls
- Provide personal protective equipment
- Offer Hepatitis B vaccines
- Establish post-exposure procedures
- Conduct training annually
Summary – Your Responsibilities

You can protect yourself by:
- Learning about the hazards of bloodborne pathogens
- Making sure you understand your job
- Knowing what to do if you are exposed
- Treating all body fluids as being infectious
- Following safe work and personal practices
- Wearing the appropriate PPE