

Bloodborne pathogens are microorganisms that are carried in blood and can cause disease in people. Examples of bloodborne pathogens include:

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

TRANSMISSION OF BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

For a bloodborne pathogen to spread, the body fluid of an infected person must enter the bloodstream of another person. The most common cause of transmission in the workplace is when an infected person's blood enters another person's bloodstream through a break in skin. Bloodborne pathogens can also be transmitted through splashes in the eyes, nose, or mouth.

Other body fluids, called **other potentially infectious materials (OPIM)**, can carry microorganisms capable of transmitting bloodborne pathogens and include:

- Human body fluids, including semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, etc.
- Body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood
- Any unfixed tissue or organ (other than intact skin) from a human

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BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

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ENGINEERING AND WORK PRACTICE CONTROLS

Devices and practices designed to prevent or minimize employee exposure to bloodborne pathogens.

- Standard precautions
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Safety needles/syringes
- Needleless devices
- Sharps containers
- Biohazard bags/containers
- Blood Spill Kits
- Hepatitis B vaccine series

EXPOSURE INCIDENT

Mucous membrane, nonintact skin, or parenteral (piercing via needlesticks, human bites, cuts, and abrasions) contact with blood or **OPIM** that occurs during the performance of an employee's duties.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS EXPOSURE

- Immediately clean wound with soap and water or a skin disinfectant; flood with water splashes in the eyes, nose, or mouth
- Report the exposure to your employer
- Seek medical attention



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