

WHAT IS A BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN?

A bloodborne pathogen (BBP) is a microorganism that lives in your blood and causes disease like: Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV/AIDS.

- Other diseases of concern for educators: Hepatitis A and Tuberculosis



How Does Bloodborne Pathogen Diseases Spread?

- **Hepatitis B**- Can cause lifelong infection, cirrhosis of the liver, liver cancer, liver failure, and death. Spread by contact with infected blood, sexual contact with infected person, drug use and from mother to child at birth. HBV is not spread through food or water, sharing eating utensils, breastfeeding, hugging, kissing, coughing, and sneezing or by casual contact. A vaccine available!
 - ❖ Acute- 90%. Symptoms resolve in 3-4 months.
 - ❖ Chronic- 10%. Possibility of cirrhosis, liver failure and liver cancer.
- **Hepatitis C**- Is primarily spread through contact with infected blood. 60% are related to IV drug use. 'Silent epidemic'-as many as 70% of those infected don't even know it. 4 million people in the US are infected. No Vaccine but can be cured with treatment!
 - ❖ Acute- 15-25%
 - ❖ Chronic- 55-85% with 70% of those infected persons resulting in chronic liver disease and 1%-5% dying as a result of their chronic liver disease.
- **HIV/Aids**- HIV is the Human Immunodeficiency Virus. It is the virus that can lead to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, or AIDS. HIV cannot reproduce outside of the human body. IT IS NOT spread by: air, water, insects like mosquitoes, saliva, tears or sweat, casual contact like shaking hands or closed-mouth, "social," kissing.
 - ❖ No vaccine. No cure. There are medications to help manage symptoms.
 - ❖ AIDS is the late stage of HIV infection, when a person's immune system is severely damaged and has difficulty fighting disease.
 - ❖ Some with HIV develop flu-like symptoms, but others have no symptoms at all.

Signs and Symptoms of Hepatitis include:

Fever	Tiredness/Fatigue	Loss of appetite	Nausea
Abdominal discomfort	Dark urine	Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes)	

*Note- Some persons with hepatitis may not have any signs or symptoms of the disease.

REMEMBER: A person could be asymptomatic. This means they could be HIV or HBV positive and have no symptoms at all. You can't tell by looking. Treat every person, every needle, and every body fluid as if it's infected.

Risk Groups- Individuals at Risk for Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens

Injection drug users	Low socioeconomic level	Health care workers	Hemodialysis patients
Infants born to infected mothers	Infants/children of immigrants from disease-endemic areas	Sexually active heterosexuals and homosexuals	

For More Information

CDC National AIDS Hotline 1-800-342- AIDS Spanish: 1-800-344-SIDA TDD: 1-800-243-7889 CDC, Hepatitis Branch https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/index.htm	CDC National Prevention Information Network P.O. Box 6003 Rockville, MD 20849 1-800-458-523	American Liver Foundation 1-800-223-0179 (GoLiver) http://www.liverfoundation.org
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UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS WILL BREAK THE CHAIN OF INFECTION

“Universal precautions,” are a set of precautions designed to prevent transmission of HIV, HBV, and other BBP’s when providing first aid or health care. Under universal precautions, blood and certain body fluids of all patients are considered potentially infectious.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Wear Personal Protective Equipment like Gloves.
- Gloves can be made of latex or non-latex materials and must be provided by your school district.
- Practice good personal hygiene and sanitation.



HOW TO WASH HANDS

1. Use warm, running water and a liquid soap. Antibacterial soap is not required.
2. Wet hands and apply a small amount of liquid soap to hands.
3. Rub hands together vigorously until a soapy lather appears. Scrub for 20 seconds before rinsing!
 - If gloves are being used, hands should be washed immediately after gloves are removed. Use of gloves alone will not prevent contamination.
 - Towelettes, wipes, or waterless hand sanitizers should be used as a substitute for washing hands with soap and water.

BODY FLUID SPILLS- CALL A CUSTODIAN

Remember- Bloodborne Pathogens are generally found in blood, semen or vaginal secretions or other potentially infectious material (OPIM). Body fluids like vomit, urine, nasal secretions, sputum, sweat, tears and fecal matter are not considered infected—unless there is visible blood. When dealing with a body fluid spill, please follow these steps:

1. Put on disposable gloves
2. Absorb the spill with an appropriate absorbent powder—like Sani-Sorb
3. Sweep up dried materials using a few pieces of cardboard and place into a bag along with the scrapers. Double bag and throw into the trash.
4. Apply or spray an antimicrobial on the surface—be sure to let it remain on the surface for the directed “dwell time” listed on the product label. Always read and follow label instructions.
5. Wipe up with a paper towel and discard.
6. Discard the used gloves and face mask, if used.

WORK TASKS WITH RISK OF EXPOSURE

1. Providing First Aid and Giving or applying medication or ointment.
2. Handling food, preparing bottles, or feeding children.
3. Assisting child in using the toilet or changing diapers.
4. Cleaning up a person, the room, bathroom items, or toys.
5. Custodial duties: cleaning bathrooms or emptying trash

WHAT IS AN EXPOSURE?

When infected blood gets into your blood through an open wound, needle stick, or human bite that breaks the skin or any other contamination that gets through broken skin, follow these steps:

1. Wash the exposed area thoroughly with soap and water.
2. Report it immediately to your supervisor.
3. Seek immediate medical attention.

School Buses

School buses are stocked with clean-up kits. During your pre-check inspection, check to make sure a kit is stocked in the bus.

Kits may contain: Bag—heat sealed, Antiseptic wipes, Anti-microbial towelettes, Plastic bag, Biohazard bag, Gloves, Absorbent powder, Bag with scoop, Paper towel, Face Mask, Hand Sanitizer, Small scraper

Follow the directions on the kit. After you have used the kit, please notify your supervisor to get a replacement kit for the bus.