### Time to complete topic: approximately 10 minutes





## **Health and Medical**

**Lesson: Health Care Policies** 

and Procedures

**Topic:** Bloodborne Pathogens

## **Bloodborne Pathogens (BBPs)**

## What Are Bloodborne Pathogens?

Bloodborne pathogens (BBPs) are disease-causing microorganisms carried by human blood and other bodily fluids.

The three most common BBPs are:

- Hepatitis B virus (HBV)
- Hepatitis C virus (HCV)
- Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)

## Why Learn About BBPs?

It is extremely important to understand how to protect yourself and your students from exposure to bloodborne pathogens. Taking proper precautions can prevent disease and save lives.

## **Bloodborne Pathogens**

### At the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- List the three most common bloodborne pathogens (BBPs)
- Identify and take appropriate actions to reduce risk of exposure to BBPs
- Describe how to respond if an injury occurs at your site

## Confidentiality

# Everyone has the right to choose to keep facts about their health private.

 It is critical that you respect this confidentiality and do not disclose facts about anyone's health conditions.

 Failure to maintain confidentiality could result in fines or imprisonment.



## Your Responsibilities

### As a vital member of the school staff, your role is to:



 Minimize the risk of BBP exposure for the students, your co-workers, and yourself

 Take proper precautions at all times

**□** Important!

Your exact duties will depend on your role at your school. Check with your principal if you are unclear about your responsibilities.

 When an incident occurs, respond quickly and correctly

## **The 3 Most Common BBPs**

Disease	Characteristics
Hepatitis B virus (HBV)	<ul> <li>Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver. HBV can lead to cirrhosis, liver cancer, or death.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Most people recover.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>HBV can be transmitted indirectly.</li> </ul>
	<ul><li>There is a vaccine.</li></ul>
Hepatitis C virus (HCV)	<ul> <li>Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver. HCV can lead to chronic liver disease and death.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>People can carry the virus for years without visible symptoms.</li> </ul>
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)	<ul> <li>HIV attacks the immune system.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>People can carry the virus for years without visible symptoms.</li> </ul>
	In some cases HIV develops into AIDS.



### Which of the following statements is false?

- A. Bloodborne pathogens are disease-causing microorganisms.
- B. The three most common bloodborne pathogens are hepatitisB, hepatitis C, and HIV.
- C. You can always tell when someone has a bloodborne pathogen because they look sick.
- D. Both staff and students have a right to privacy concerning health matters.



### Which of the following statements is false?

### You selected:

C. You can always tell when someone has a bloodborne pathogen because they look sick.

### Correct!

This statement is false. Some people carry a virus for years without developing visible symptoms or even being aware that they have it.



### Which of the following statements is false?

### You selected:

A. Bloodborne pathogens are disease-causing microorganisms.

### This is incorrect.

This statement is true. Statement C is false. It indicated that people carrying a virus look sick. However, some people carry a virus for years without developing visible symptoms or even being aware that they have it.



### Which of the following statements is false?

### You selected:

B. The three most common bloodborne pathogens are hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV.

### This is incorrect.

This statement is true. Statement C. is false. It indicated people carrying a virus look sick. However, some people carry a virus for years without developing visible symptoms or even being aware that they have it.



### Which of the following statements is false?

### You selected:

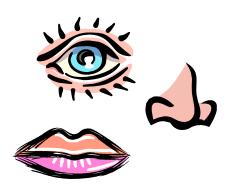
D. Both staff and students have a right to privacy concerning health matters.

### This is incorrect.

This statement is true. Statement C. is false. It indicated people carrying a virus look sick. However, some people carry a virus for years without developing visible symptoms or even being aware that they have it.

## Risk of Exposure

BBPs are most commonly spread through high-risk activities like unprotected sex and sharing drug needles. At school sites your risk of exposure is low.

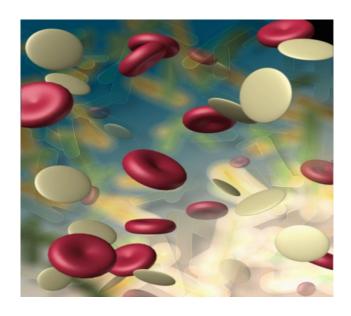


### Potential risks include:

- Infected blood or other bodily fluid that contacts your mouth, eyes, or nose
- Infected blood or other bodily fluid that contacts broken areas of skin, even tiny breaks you can't see
- Accidental injury with a sharp object like a needle, broken glass, or anything else that can pierce your skin

## **Indirect Transmission**

- Hepatitis B virus (HBV) can be transmitted indirectly if you touch a contaminated surface and then touch your nose, mouth, eyes, or broken skin.
- HBV can survive dried and at room temperature on surfaces for up to a week.



## **Universal Precautions**

Universal precautions are measures taken to prevent the transmission of BBPs and other disease conditions.

They are standard precautions that should be used in <a href="every">every</a> workplace because:

- You cannot necessarily tell if someone has a BBP. Many people carry a virus for years without visible symptoms.
- Because you never know who might be carrying a BBP, you should treat any exposure to blood or other bodily fluids as a serious matter.
- You should also be aware that you might be a carrier of a BBP without your knowing it. Prevention measures also protect your students from exposure.

## **The 5 Universal Precautions**

- 1. Wash hands and work surfaces frequently.
- 2. Avoid contact with sharp objects.
- 3. Use gloves and other personal protective equipment when you anticipate exposure to blood or other bodily fluids.
- 4. Wash your hands immediately following exposure.
- 5. Dispose of hazardous material safely using engineering controls like a sharps box for needle disposal.

## **Wash Hands Frequently**

# The simplest precaution against the spread of bloodborne pathogens and other germs is hand-washing.

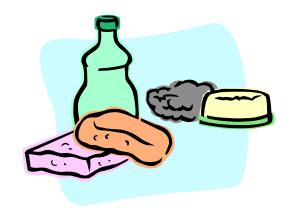
- Wash your hands with non-abrasive soap and running water for at least 15 seconds.
- Dry your hands and throw away the towel.
- Use a clean towel to turn off the faucet.
- If hand-washing facilities are not available, use anti-bacterial hand cleanser as a temporary measure until you get to a sink.



## **Clean Work Surfaces**

Make sure that work surfaces, particularly any public counters, are kept clean.

- It is important to use a disinfectant that kills germs.
- This should be part of your daily routine, especially for the front office counter.



## **Avoid Sharp Objects**

- Be alert for sharp objects, like broken glass or needles, when emptying trash containers.
  - Never smash down overflowing trash containers with your hands or feet.
  - Always carry trash bags away from your body.
- Never pick up broken glass with your hands.





## **Use Gloves**

# Always wear gloves when you anticipate touching blood, bodily fluids, or contaminated surfaces.



 Use single-use, disposable gloves when administering first aid.



Cover any cuts with bandages before putting on gloves.



- Make sure gloves fit snugly, not loosely.
- Check for rips or tears.
- When removing gloves be sure that your bare skin does not come into contact with the exterior of the glove.



Dispose of gloves in hazardous waste container.

## Other Personal Protective Equipment







### Resuscitation device

- Always wear when administering mouth-tomouth resuscitation.

### Smock or apron

- Always wear when cleaning up large amounts of blood or other bodily fluid.
- Eyewear
- Face Shield





## Wash If Exposure Occurs

If, despite the other precautions, you are exposed to a potential BBP, you can reduce the risk by

 Immediately washing the exposed area with anti-bacterial soap and water

 Flushing your eyes, nose, or mouth with running water if they have been exposed



# Dispose of Hazardous Material Safely

 Used needles should be immediately placed in a sharps container



## When an Injury Occurs

Even if you carefully practice universal precautions, situations can arise that carry a risk of exposure to BBDs.

When an injury or other such incident occurs:

- 1. Assess the situation.
- 2. Administer first aid.
- 3. Report the incident.

## **Assess the Situation**

As a school employee you are dedicated to children and your first instinct might be to assist an injured child right away. It is important for you to take a moment to collect yourself so you can safely approach the situation.

- Be calm and reassure the victim.
- Assess the severity of the injury.
- Avoid exposing yourself to blood or other bodily fluids without precautions.



## **Administer First Aid**

- For minor cuts and scrapes, encourage the victim to self-administer first aid.
- For more serious injuries, put on a pair of gloves before you administer first aid.
- If you are accidentally exposed to blood or another fluid in the course of administering first aid, wash the exposed area with anti-bacterial soap and water.
- If your eyes, nose, or mouth have been exposed, flush them with running water.







## Report the Incident

- Report the exposure to your supervisor immediately in case there is a need for additional medical attention.
  - Your supervisor should call the nurse hotline, who will advise as to the next step.
- Complete an Incident Report form and submit it to Risk Management as soon as possible.
  - An Incident Report is required anytime an incident occurs in which there is potential exposure to a bloodborne pathogen.



Incident reports can be obtained through the health office at your school site.







# A student, Angie, comes into the office with a bloody nose. She is upset and needs your assistance cleaning up. Would you:

- A. Tell Angie that you are busy and send her back to class
- B. Rush to help Angie and do your best not to touch the blood
- C. Encourage Angie to clean herself up, even though she is upset
- D. Call Angie's parents and tell them they need to come to clean her up



A student, Angie, comes into the office with a bloody nose. She is upset and needs your assistance cleaning up. Would you:

### You selected:

C. Encourage Angie to clean herself up, even though she is upset

### Correct!

This is a good first step. If you do end up administering to Angie, be sure to wear gloves.



A student, Angie, comes into the office with a bloody nose. She is upset and needs your assistance cleaning up. Would you:

### You selected:

A. Tell Angie that you are busy and send her back to class

### This is incorrect.

Angie needs assistance. The correct answer is C, "Encourage Angie to clean herself up, even though she is upset."



A student, Angie, comes into the office with a bloody nose. She is upset and needs your assistance cleaning up. Would you:

### You selected:

B. Rush to help Angie and do your best not to touch the blood

### This is incorrect.

Although you may wish to help her in this way, you are taking an unnecessary risk. The correct answer is C, "Encourage Angie to clean herself up, even though she is upset."



A student, Angie, comes into the office with a bloody nose. She is upset and needs your assistance cleaning up. Would you:

### You selected:

D. Call Angie's parents and tell them they need to come to clean her up

### This is incorrect.

Angie does need immediate attention. The correct answer is C, "Encourage Angie to clean herself up, even though she is upset."



# You notice that Angie has dripped blood down the hall. Would you:

- A. Grab some paper towels and quickly wipe up the blood
- B. Call your custodian and ask them to clean up the blood and disinfect the area using the appropriate precautions
- Give Angie paper towels and instruct her to clean up after herself



# You notice that Angie has dripped blood down the hall. Would you:

#### You selected:

B. Call your custodian and ask them to clean up the blood and disinfect the area using the appropriate precautions

### Correct!

This should be done as quickly as possible to minimize risk.



# You notice that Angie has dripped blood down the hall. Would you:

### You selected:

A. Grab some paper towels and quickly wipe up the blood

### This is incorrect.

Do not attempt to clean the blood yourself. You may be contaminated. The correct answer is B, "Call your custodian and ask them to clean up the blood and disinfect the area using the appropriate precautions."



# You notice that Angie has dripped blood down the hall. Would you:

### You selected:

C. Give Angie paper towels and instruct her to clean up after herself

#### This is incorrect.

Angie will not be able to sanitized the area properly. The correct answer is B, "Call your custodian and ask them to clean up the blood and disinfect the area using the appropriate precautions."

## Summary

### In this topic, you have explored:

- Bloodborne pathogens (BBPs)
- The three most common BBPs
- Universal precautions for reducing risk of exposure
- What to do when an injury occurs

## Congratulations!

# You have completed Bloodborne Pathogens



# NOW that you have completed the BBP training module:

- 1. Go to your school's health office (SV, see Gail. Bus Barn, DO, Cafeteria, and Accommodation staff go to the middle school health office)
- 2. Sign the roster to show you have completed the training.