



BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

June 2025

Video Link: [Bloodborne Pathogens Safety Training \(YouTube\)](#)

After the video, we'll discuss how this applies specifically to your roles in the Town of Perinton.

What Are Bloodborne Pathogens?

Bloodborne pathogens (BBPs) are **microorganisms in human blood** that can cause serious illnesses. These include:

- **Hepatitis B (HBV):** Affects the liver; highly infectious and can live outside the body for up to a week.
- **Hepatitis C (HCV):** Also a liver disease, no vaccine available.
- **HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus):** Affects the immune system; leads to AIDS if untreated.

These are not airborne viruses. You won't "catch" them from being near someone. They are only transmitted through contact with infected blood or other body fluids.

Other Potentially Infectious Materials (OPIM):

- Saliva (especially in dental settings)
 - Vomit (if blood is present)
 - Urine and feces (if visibly contaminated with blood)
 - Amniotic, cerebrospinal, and other internal body fluids
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Job-Specific Risks in Perinton

Let's talk about **how you might encounter BBPs** in the work you do for the Town.



Public Works & Streets:

- Picking up roadside litter or clearing storm drains (used needles, contaminated materials)
- Assisting at accident scenes until emergency services arrive

Recreation and Parks:

- Cleaning restrooms or park shelters
- Emptying trash that may contain soiled bandages, hygiene products, or drug paraphernalia

Facility Maintenance:

- Repairing plumbing in public restrooms
- Cleaning up after injuries or vandalism

Emergency/First Aid Response:

- You may be first on the scene when a resident or coworker is injured
- Even minor cuts can present exposure risks

Ask the group:

“Has anyone ever found a needle in a catch basin, park, or trash bin?”

(Pause for stories – this builds awareness.)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PPE is your first line of defense. Use it every time there is even a slight possibility of exposure.

- **Gloves (nitrile or latex-free):** Always wear when handling trash, cleaning, or giving aid.
- **Goggles or Face Shields:** If there is a chance of splashing (cleaning bathrooms, for instance).
- **Disposable gowns or coveralls:** If you expect extensive cleanup.
- **Resuscitation devices:** For CPR (avoid mouth-to-mouth if not properly protected).

Proper Use:

- Inspect PPE for tears or punctures before use.
- Remove gloves without touching the outer surface (demonstrate this if possible).
- Never reuse disposable PPE.



- Dispose of PPE in sealed plastic bags or red biohazard bags, depending on your department's policy.
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Sanitation and Decontamination

Good hygiene and sanitation can prevent exposure.

- **Wash hands immediately** after removing gloves, using restrooms, or any possible exposure.
- Use **EPA-approved disinfectants** (like bleach solutions) on surfaces contaminated with blood or fluids.
- Clean tools, mops, or brooms that have come into contact with OPIM.
- **Never eat, drink, or smoke** in work areas where BBP exposure could occur.

Sharps Handling:

- Never pick up needles with your hands.
 - Use a tool or broom/dustpan to place in a solid hard surface container.
 - When in doubt, contact Safety and Security for assistance.
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Exposure Incidents & Response

If you think you've been exposed:

1. **Immediately wash** the area with soap and water.
2. **Flush eyes or mucous membranes** with water if splashed.
3. **Report it** to your supervisor right away.
4. **Document the exposure** and seek medical evaluation.

There's no penalty for reporting. Early intervention can be lifesaving. Perinton offers medical follow-up per OSHA's post-exposure protocol.

Town of Perinton Exposure Control Plan

The Town has a written **Exposure Control Plan** in place as required by OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (1910.1030). This includes:



- Exposure risk assessment by job type
- PPE availability
- Incident reporting process
- Annual training requirements

You are encouraged to review the plan, ask questions, and suggest updates based on field experience.

Final Takeaways & Group Discussion

- **Use universal precautions:** Treat all blood and OPIM as infectious.
- **Use PPE and know where to find it.**
- **Don't be afraid to speak up if you spot a hazard or need better tools/PPE.**
- **Report all exposures, no matter how small they seem.**

Questions for discussion:

- Do you feel you have what you need (PPE, containers, training)?
- Are there places we need to stock better supplies?
- Have you ever encountered something unsafe and didn't know what to do?

