



BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

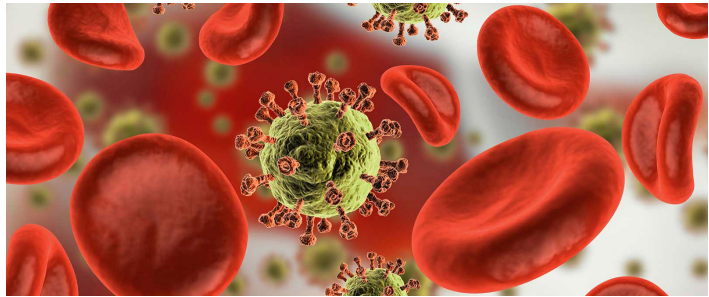
TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

August 2024

What Are Bloodborne Pathogens?

Bloodborne pathogens (BBPs) are microorganisms found in human blood and other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) that can cause disease. Key BBPs include:

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



How Are Bloodborne Pathogens Transmitted?

BBPs can be transmitted through:

- **Direct Contact:** With infected blood or body fluids.
- **Needlestick Injuries:** From contaminated needles or sharp objects.
- **Open Wounds:** Contact with infected blood or body fluids through cuts or abrasions.
- **Contaminated Surfaces:** Contact with surfaces or equipment that have been exposed to infectious materials.

Exposure Control Measures

1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- **Gloves:** Always wear gloves when handling blood or body fluids.
- **Face Shields/Goggles:** Use to protect your face and eyes.
- **Masks and Gowns:** Wear when dealing with large volumes of blood or body fluids.

2. Safe Work Practices

- **Handling Sharps:** Dispose of needles and other sharp objects in puncture-resistant sharps containers. Never recap needles by hand. Report any found needles to Safety and Security
- **Cleaning Up:** Use appropriate disinfectants to clean blood spills. Wear gloves and other PPE during cleanup.





- **Hand Hygiene:** Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after removing gloves or handling contaminated materials. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

3. Reporting and Response

- **Incident Reporting:** Immediately report any exposure incidents or injuries to your supervisor. Seek medical evaluation and treatment as needed.
- **Exposure Control Plan:** Familiarize yourself with your workplace's Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan, which outlines procedures for managing exposure incidents. This can be found in the Town of Perinton Safety Manual

Prevention and Training

- **Hepatitis B Vaccination:** Employees at risk should receive the hepatitis B vaccine. Check your vaccination status and get vaccinated if necessary.
- **Training:** Participate in regular training sessions on bloodborne pathogens to stay updated on safety procedures and best practices.

Emergency Procedures

1. **Exposure Incident:**
 - Wash the affected area with soap and water.
 - Report the incident immediately to your supervisor.
 - Seek medical evaluation as soon as possible.
2. **Cleanup:**
 - Wear appropriate PPE.
 - Use an appropriate disinfectant to clean the area.
 - Dispose of contaminated materials properly.

Important Reminders

- Always use PPE and follow safe work practices.
- Report any safety concerns or exposure incidents immediately.
- Stay informed about your workplace's safety protocols and procedures.

