

# Bloodborne Pathogens



# What is a Bloodborne Pathogen?

- *Bloodborne Pathogens* means pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).



# Common Bloodborne Pathogens

- Most serious and prevalent diseases:
  - Hepatitis B virus (HBV)
  - Hepatitis C virus (HCV)
  - Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)



# Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)

- Hepatitis B virus can cause serious liver damage and death. Symptoms include jaundice, fever, nausea, and abdominal pain.
- Less than 5 percent of patients develop chronic infection with hepatitis B, which carries an estimated 15 percent lifetime risk of dying from cirrhosis or liver cancer.
- The chance of becoming infected with hepatitis B from a sharps injury is estimated to be between 23 and 62 percent.



# Hepatitis C virus (HCV)

- Hepatitis C virus causes serious damage to the liver and can be fatal.
- Infection can occur without symptoms or only mild ones.
- Chronic hepatitis develops in 75 to 80 percent of infected patients, and 70 percent of these individuals get active liver disease. Of those with active liver disease, 10 to 20 percent develop cirrhosis and 1 to 5 percent develop liver cancer.



# Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV)

- Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disables the body's immune system until it is no longer capable of fighting infection.
- Once a person becomes immunocompromised, he or she can exhibit symptoms of weight loss, persistent low-grade fever, night sweats, and flu-like symptoms.
- The person is also more vulnerable to pneumonias, intestinal disorders, and fungal infections.



# How Does a Pathogen Enter My body?

- A contaminated needle stick, infected blood, or other bodily fluids entering through an opening in your skin such as a cut, scrape, or an irritated insect bite.
- Infected blood or bodily fluids enter your eyes, nose, or mouth.



# How Can I Protect Myself?

- Puncture resistant gloves
- Splash guards
- Self retracting tools and needles
- Don't touch bodily fluids
- Wash you hands with anti bacterial soap frequently



# Common Types of PPE

- Nitrile or latex gloves
- Face shields
- Aprons
- Smocks
- Shoe covers



# Where Are BBP's Found?

- Nose bleeds
- Person getting cut
- Restrooms
- Laboratories
- Tools use on people or animals, sharps containers
- Examination rooms
- Sewage
- Saliva
- Etc.



# Universal Precautions

- Assume all blood and bodily fluids contain pathogens.
- Focus on potential risk and self protections.

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# Personal Hygiene

- Properly cover open cuts and skin abrasions.
- Never eat, drink, smoke, apply make-up, touch contact lenses in a potential exposure environment.

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# Common Symptoms of Exposure

- Flu like symptoms
- Jaundice
- Weakness
- Loss of appetite
- Vomiting
- Stomach pain
- Diarrhea



# Pathogen Clean Up

- Assess the area to be cleaned.
- Restrict access to exposed area.
- Make a plan.
- Gather necessary tools and chemicals for the clean up.



# Solutions For Clean Up

- Bleach- 1 to 10 ratio mixture
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Other approved pathogen disinfectant solutions

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# The Contaminated Area

- Put on PPE
- Place paper towels over the fluid.
- Using a spray bottle or a saturated mop allow your disinfectant to dribble over the paper towels saturating them.
- Allow the saturated towels to sit for the recommended time to disinfect the fluid. (On the average 10 minutes)
- Clean up the saturated paper towels.
- Ensure you are wearing the proper PPE.



# Disposal

- Place waste into a waste bag meant for the disposal of Infectious Substances. (Usually a red bag with the BioHazard symbol placed on it.)
- Use proper glove removal process.
- Check with you facility's disposal process.
- Do not throw the bag with the fluids into a regular trash can or dumpster.
- Check with Safety & Risk Services for disposal requirements.



# Emergencies

- If you accidentally get exposed to the bodily fluid by getting it splashed onto your skin, wash immediately with antibacterial soap.
- If you accidentally get cut or stuck with an infected item wash it immediately and go to the emergency room.
- Follow your “Company Policy” for more guidance.





**Be Safe**

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# Acknowledgement

I \_\_\_\_\_, have completed the Blood Borne Pathogens training.  
(Print Name)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print the acknowledgement sheet, fill in requested information and email to [srsweb@unm.edu](mailto:srsweb@unm.edu) to complete training.