CrewSigned

Bloodborne Pathogens Toolbox Talk

5-minute read-aloud · Last reviewed November 24, 2026

Bloodborne pathogens are germs carried in blood and some other body fluids that can cause serious disease. The main ones are hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV. You do not need to work in a hospital to be exposed. On our jobs it can happen when you help an injured coworker, clean up after an accident, or find a used needle at a work site.

These germs get into your body when infected blood touches your eyes, nose or mouth, or gets into a cut, a scrape, chapped skin or a needle stick. Hepatitis B in particular can survive in dried blood on surfaces for days, so a spot that looks old can still be dangerous.

The main rule is simple: treat all blood as if it is infected. You cannot tell by looking at someone whether they carry a disease, and they may not know either.

When you give first aid to someone who is bleeding, put on gloves before you touch the blood. The first aid kit has them. If there is a chance of splashing, protect your eyes and face too. If gloves are not available, use a barrier like a plastic bag or a clean cloth, and get the person to press on their own wound if they can. After you take gloves off, wash your hands with soap and water right away.

Cleanup of blood should be done by people who are assigned and trained for it, using the right PPE and disinfectant. If you are not one of them, keep others away from the area and tell me.

Sharps are a special risk. If you find a needle, syringe or broken glass with blood on it, do not pick it up with your hands. Use tongs or a tool, put it in a puncture-resistant container, and let me know. Never reach into trash bags or dumpsters with your hands, because sharps can be hidden there.

If you are exposed, act fast. Wash the area with soap and water. Flush eyes, nose or mouth with clean water. Then report it to me right away so you can see a doctor quickly. Some treatments work best when started within hours.

Workers whose job includes first aid or cleanup duty can get the hepatitis B vaccine at no cost. Ask me if that applies to you.

Discussion questions

1. Where are the gloves and other protective supplies for first aid and cleanup on this job?
2. Who here is assigned and trained to clean up blood, and who should stay clear?
3. What should you do right after you get blood on broken skin or in your eyes?

OSHA standard

29 CFR 1910.1030, Bloodborne pathogens
https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1030

SOURCES

OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard Fact Sheet: https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/BBFACT01.pdf
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Reduces Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens Fact Sheet: https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/BBFACT03.pdf
Hepatitis B Vaccination Protection Fact Sheet (OSHA 4504): https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/OSHA4504.pdf
OSHA Safety and Health Topics, Bloodborne Pathogens and Needlestick Prevention: https://www.osha.gov/bloodborne-pathogens

This talk does not replace training that an OSHA standard requires. Scripts are based on OSHA and NIOSH publications and rewritten in plain

language.

Safety Meeting Sign-In Sheet

TOPIC

Bloodborne Pathogens Toolbox Talk

COMPANY

JOB / SITE

DATE

TIME

PRESENTER

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