

## **BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS (ALL OTHERS)**

### **OBJECTIVES**

- Staff will learn bloodborne pathogen regulatory requirements
- Staff will learn preventative measures to avoid bloodborne pathogen exposure
- Staff will review the organization/department Blood borne Pathogen Policy

### **INTRODUCTION**

Compulsory to OSHA, employers having employees with an occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens must provide a written exposure control plan and provide appropriate personal protective equipment and training. These employees include but are not limited to law enforcement, detention, fire/EMS, animal control, custodial, maintenance, and solid waste personnel; and health care workers, staff involved in food preparation, and any other employees exposed to body fluids.

Bloodborne pathogens are disease-causing organism that is found in blood or blood products. There are many different bloodborne pathogens but “Hepatitis B (HBV)” and the “Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)” are the two diseases specifically addressed by OSHA.

### **MODES OF TRANSMISSION**

Bloodborne pathogens can be transmitted through contact with infected blood or other potentially infectious body fluids. Bloodborne pathogens can be on virtually any surface or material. Since any body fluid may transmit bloodborne pathogens if it contains traces of blood, you must treat all blood and body fluids as infectious.

Bloodborne pathogens are most commonly transmitted through:

- Bleeding persons
- Persons with open or infected wounds
- Sexual contact
- Sharing of hypodermic needles
- Puncture from contaminated needles, broken glass, or other sharps
- Contact with contaminated substance
- Contact between mucous membranes and infected body fluids

You may encounter situations where there is a high risk of transmission of infectious disease, such as:

- Anytime body fluids are present
- Residences/areas with unsanitary conditions
- Cleaning/working in restrooms or locations where blood or body fluids are present
- Providing patient care
- Combative situations
- Body searches

## **UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS**

Universal precautions apply the same or universal approach to all persons or potentially contaminated substances. They describe a prevention strategy in which all blood and all potentially infectious materials are treated as if they were in fact infectious. This approach must be used in all situations where exposure to blood or potentially infectious materials is possible.

OSHA requires that workers exposed to bloodborne pathogens be provided with and wear personal protective equipment (PPE). Prior to engaging in any situation where you may be exposed to bloodborne pathogens you must wear the appropriate PPE to prevent an exposure.

Protective gloves should be made of latex, rubber, or other water impervious materials should be worn when contacting potentially infectious material. (Many workers are allergic to latex and may need hypo-allergic gloves.) Prior to use, always check gloves for damage.

Goggles and/or other eye protection should be used anytime there is a risk of splashing of contaminated fluids.

Face shields may be used in addition to goggles on certain tasks to provide additional face protection. A face shield should provide protection against splashes to the nose or mouth.

Aprons, gowns, and masks may be worn to protect your clothing and keep blood or other contaminated fluids from soaking through to your skin, or to protect your respiratory track.

## **HYGIENE PRACTICES**

Hand washing is one of the most important practices used to prevent transmission of bloodborne pathogens. Hands and skin should be washed as soon as possible after removal of gloves or other PPE. If you are in an area without access to washing facilities you may use antiseptic cleansers. If this method is used hands should be washed with soap and running water as soon as possible.

## **DECONTAMINATION & STERILIZATION**

All reusable contaminated equipment should be decontaminated by using a solution of 10% household bleach to 90% water. Non-reusable contaminated equipment and supplies should be disposed in appropriate biohazard containers.

## **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

If you are exposed to bloodborne pathogens you should:

- Wash the exposed area thoroughly with soap and running water.
- Use non-abrasive antibacterial soap if possible.
- If blood is splashed in the eye or mucous membrane, flush the affected area with running water for at least 15 minutes.
- Report the exposure to your supervisor as soon as possible.
- Follow the organization's or department's exposure reporting policy.
- Seek medical attention, if necessary.

## **HEPATITIS B VACCINATION**

Employees who have routine exposure to bloodborne pathogens shall be offered the Hepatitis B Vaccination series at no cost. You do not have to accept the offer; however, you will be asked to sign a declination form. If you decline the initial offer, you can change your mind and receive the series at any time during your employment.

## **POLICY**

*Discuss all organizational policies and procedures related to bloodborne pathogens and employee reporting procedures.*

## **CLOSING**

- *Remind employees that all blood or other body fluids must be treated as infectious, and that prior to engaging in any situation where they may be exposed to bloodborne pathogens they must wear the appropriate PPE to prevent an exposure.*
- *Encourage discussion about bloodborne pathogen policies, procedures, recent or past exposures, and preventative measures.*
- *Upon completion staff will review personal protective equipment (PPE) for appropriateness.*