



Bloodborne Pathogens



Protect Yourself, Family, & Co-Workers

How can you be exposed to bloodborne pathogens on the job?

- Needlesticks or cuts from used needles or sharps.
- Contact of your eyes, nose, mouth, or broken skin with blood.
- Assaults such as bites, cuts, or knife wounds.
- Splashes or punctures.

What should you do if you are exposed?

- Wash needlesticks and cuts with soap and water.
- Flush splashes to nose, mouth, or skin with water.
- Irrigate eyes with clean water, saline or sterile wash.
- Report exposures to ensure you receive appropriate follow-up care.

How can you protect yourself?

- Get the hepatitis B vaccine.
- Read and understand your employer's Exposure Control Plan.
- Dispose of sharps into appropriate containers.
- Use sharps devices with safety features when possible.
- Use personal protective equipment such as gloves and face shields, if there is a potential exposure to blood or body fluids.
- Clean work surfaces with germicidal products.

For additional information:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Telephone: 1-800-CDC-INFO
TTY: 1-888-232-6348
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/bp.html
- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
Telephone: 1-800-CDC-INFO
TTY: 1-888-232-6348
www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/bbp/correctional



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