

OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard

Bloodborne pathogens are infectious microorganisms present in blood, or certain other bodily fluids that can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS. This information is being provided to you because the Environmental Safety Office has determined that your job duties have the potential to expose you to bloodborne pathogens. Some of the tasks that have this exposure risk are:

- Providing first-aid
- Bleeding injuries
- Helping a child with a loose tooth
- Changing bandages
- Handling breast milk in child care
- Any task that involves visible blood
- CPR

The best way to protect yourself is to use universal precautions:

1. Assume all blood and bodily fluids are infected.
2. Use gloves when doing any task that involves the risk of exposure.
3. Always wash your hands, even if you used gloves.
4. Remove gloves immediately following the task, to avoid contaminating other surfaces.
5. Dispose of contaminated bandages, needles, etc. in a properly designated container.
6. Consider taking the Hep B vaccine prior to starting your job. It is at no cost to you. Your supervisor will make arrangements with Human Resources to pay for the vaccine.
7. If you decline the vaccine, please read and sign the declination form.

Some information about bloodborne infectious diseases:

- Hepatitis B – Virus affects liver and can cause scarring, cancer or liver failure. It can live for at least 7 days outside of the body – even in dried blood. Vaccine is available at no cost and during work hours.
- Hepatitis C – Most common blood borne infection in the U.S. Damages liver. HCV can live for at least 7 days outside of the body – even in dried blood. No vaccine.
- HIV – Virus attacks immune system. Drying causes 90% to 99% reduction in the viability of HIV – HIV does not live for more than minutes or hours outside of the body. There is no vaccine against it.

CAN'T get them through

- > casual contact
- > through the air
- > via insects, or
- > through contact with saliva, tears, or sweat.

CAN contract these viruses on the job from:

- > Getting the blood or body fluids of an infected person on your broken skin....
- >or in mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth)
- > Getting stuck with a contaminated needle or other sharp

If an exposure occurs, immediately report it to your supervisor. Exposure incidents are rare, but the employer can ask the person involved to be tested, provide you with treatment options and follow-up at no cost.

GENERAL BBP PROGRAM INFORMATION

OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens standard can be found in Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations at 29 CFR 1910.1030. It is accessible through Montgomery College's Environmental Safety Office's website, or by contacting the Environmental Safety Manager at 240-567-4308.

The standard protects workers who may come into contact with blood or other bodily fluids as a result of doing their job duties. In general, the standard requires employers to:

- **Establish an exposure control plan (ECP):** Montgomery College's Exposure Control Plan is developed and maintained by the Security Office located on Rockville Campus. Copies should be available at your work location and your supervisor can tell you where it is located. Supervisors - if you need a copy of the ECP, please contact the Environmental Safety Manager at 240-567-4308.
- **Implement the use of universal precautions:** (treating all human blood and most bodily fluids other than saliva as if known to be infectious for bloodborne pathogens). This means -
 1. Protecting yourself by wearing gloves before handling or doing any task that could expose you to blood or bodily fluids.
 2. Disposing of the gloves, and clean-up materials in containers designated for that purpose.
 3. Placing needles and other sharps in a rigid container with a tight fitting lid prior to disposal. NEVER recap a needle, or try to reuse it.
- **Identify and use engineering controls.** Your supervisor must show you the proper disposal methods and universal precautions used in your workplace. These could be as simple as the location and proper use of gloves and medical supplies, sharps containers, and spill clean-up procedures.
- **Identify and ensure the use of work practice controls.** Please review with your supervisor, the procedures for handling and disposing of contaminated sharps, laundry, and cleaning contaminated surfaces and items. Typically, a 1:10 solution of bleach and water can be used for disinfection. Another option is to use an EPA approved disinfectant that has been tested to be effective against most common disease causing microorganisms. For a list of such disinfectants contact your local Public Health Department, or the Environmental Safety Manager (7-4308).
- **Provide personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, gowns, eye protection, and masks.** Employers must clean, repair, and replace this equipment as needed. Provision, maintenance, repair and replacement are at no cost to the worker.
- **Hepatitis B vaccinations.** This vaccination must be offered after the worker has received the required bloodborne pathogens training and within 10 days of initial assignment to a job with occupational exposure. If you choose to avail of the Hep B vaccine, you may use the Secure Medical Clinics (see attached form). If these clinic locations are not convenient, please contact Rowena D'Souza at 240-567-5370 for alternative options.
- **Make available post-exposure evaluation and follow-up to any occupationally exposed worker who experiences an exposure incident.** An exposure incident is a specific eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, non-intact skin, or parenteral contact with blood or OPIM. This evaluation and follow-up must be at no cost to the worker and includes documenting the route(s) of exposure and the circumstances. At MC you must inform your supervisor who then informs the Risk Manager, Rowena D'Souza about the incident and she sets up the evaluation, etc.