Protection from Bloodborne Pathogens

Includes Dictionary of Commonly Used Terms
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Protection from Bloodborne Pathogens
All About Bloodborne Pathogens

Every job involves certain small risks. If you are a health care employee, one risk is exposure to bloodborne pathogens (BBP).

Bloodborne pathogens are disease- and infection-causing microorganisms carried by blood and other potentially infectious materials.

Some serious bloodborne pathogens are the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the hepatitis B virus (HBV), and the hepatitis C virus (HCV).

HIV causes AIDS, which attacks the body's immune system so it can't fight disease.

HBV, even more common, infects the liver and can lead to serious—even fatal—illnesses such as cirrhosis, liver cancer, or chronic liver disease.

HCV also attacks the liver. Every year, thousands of deaths are caused by HCV-related liver disease. It is the most common chronic bloodborne pathogen in the U.S. Antiviral medication can help some people infected with HCV.
Bloodborne Pathogens

There's only a small risk of on-the-job infection from bloodborne pathogens. But you can't take chances with such serious illnesses, especially because people can carry bloodborne viruses and have no symptoms. They may not even know they're infected.

That's why everyone with possible exposure to bloodborne diseases on the job has to understand the hazards—and the ways to avoid exposure.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) created the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard for just that reason—to tell employers and employees what actions to take to prevent exposure to bloodborne pathogens at work. OSHA's revised Standard (found at 29 CFR 1910.1030) was effective on April 18, 2001.
OSHA's **Bloodborne Pathogens Standard** is designed to protect anyone whose job might expose them to bloodborne disease. **This includes:**

- Physicians, nurses, paramedics, phlebotomists
- Dentists and dental employees
- Laboratory and blood bank technologists and technicians
- Housekeeping and laundry workers
- Home care and long-term care workers
- Medical examiners and morticians
- Research lab workers
- Public safety personnel (fire, police, rescue, correctional officers).

The Standard also says:

**Employers must** have an Exposure Control Plan and train employees to use it.

**Employees must** follow the rules, including using protective clothing and following Universal Precautions:*

Treat all blood and potentially infectious body fluids as if they are infectious.

*Your facility may require you to follow stricter **Standard Precautions**. They apply to 1) blood; 2) all body fluids, secretions, and excretions except sweat; 3) nonintact skin; and 4) mucous membranes.
Bloodborne Pathogens can be transmitted by contact with potentially infectious materials from living or dead individuals. This includes:

- Sexual contact
- Shared drug needles
- Needlestick injuries from infected hypodermic needles or sharps
- Direct contact between broken or chapped skin and infected body fluids, such as:
  - Blood
  - Human tissues or organs
  - HIV-containing cell, tissue, or organ cultures
  - HIV- or HBV-containing culture medium or other solutions
  - Blood, organs, or tissues from HIV- or HBV-infected experimental animals
  - Semen, vaginal secretions, saliva in dental procedures, and cerebrospinal, synovial, pleural, pericardial, peritoneal, or amniotic fluid
  - Any body fluid visibly contaminated with blood.

HBV can also be transmitted through dried blood and contaminated surfaces.

Unless there's visible blood, bloodborne pathogens are not transmitted by mucus, sweat, tears, urine, feces, nasal secretions, and vomit.
HIV—
Understanding the Disease

HIV is the virus that causes AIDS. It attacks the body's immune system, making it difficult or impossible to fight off diseases. Early symptoms of AIDS include:

- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Chronic fatigue
- Skin rashes

Later, the patient may develop certain types of cancer and infections, including pneumonia, which may be deadly.

Some people with HIV have no symptoms; others don't develop symptoms for years after they're infected. Currently, there is no cure for AIDS.
The hepatitis B virus, although it is not as widely publicized, is actually more common and more infectious than HIV. In fact, about 8,700 health care workers contact HBV—and 200 will eventually die from it.

Some people infected with HBV have no symptoms; others develop serious or fatal illnesses, such as cirrhosis, liver cancer, and chronic liver disease.
Exposure Control Plan

OSHA requires employers to develop a written Exposure Control Plan that is updated every year. It describes the employer's protective procedures designed to eliminate or minimize employee exposures to bloodborne pathogens. It must include:

- Job classifications where employees have the potential for exposure
- Those employees' tasks and procedures that could expose them to bloodborne pathogens
- When and how the employer will inform employees of hazards and protections and implement protective measures
- Procedures for evaluating exposure incidents
- Accounting for innovations in procedures and technological developments (i.e., sliding sheath needles)
- Method used to solicit input from employees
Engineering Controls

Engineering controls are one of the first defenses against exposure to bloodborne pathogens. They attempt to control the hazard at the source and prevent it from reaching employees. OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard requires these engineering controls:

- Special identified puncture-resistant, leakproof containers for used or contaminated sharp instruments
- Disposable airway equipment or resuscitation bags, mechanical respiratory assistance devices, and pocket mouth-to-mouth resuscitation devices

Other possible engineering controls include:

- Laser scalpels
- Glove boxes
- Splash guards
- Mechanical devices to clean up broken glass
- Biological safety cabinets for processing potentially infectious specimens
- Autoclaves for treatment of specimens and biological waste
- Sliding sheath needles
- All control measures that isolate or remove the hazard from the workplace
Work Practice Controls

OSHA also requires employers to use work practice controls. They are procedures employees should follow to eliminate or minimize exposure.

The most important work practice control is Universal Precautions: treating all blood and other potentially infectious body fluids as if they are infected.

Another is to wash hands and exposed skin with soap and water immediately after exposure to potentially infectious material or after removing gloves or other protective clothing. Use nonabrasive or antiseptic cleansers or towelettes only if washing facilities are not easily accessible.
Good hygiene is essential. Remember to **wash your hands with soap and water** immediately, after:

- Tending to a patient
- Removing gloves or other protective equipment
- Contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials

When you wash:

- Handle faucets with a clean paper towel
- Wash thoroughly with soap and water, even between the fingers, for 20 to 30 seconds
- Rinse thoroughly
- Dry with a clean towel—not the one used on the water faucets

Also, remember to avoid eating, drinking, smoking, applying makeup, etc., in areas that may be contaminated!
When performing procedures involving blood and other fluids, try not to splash, spray, spatter, or create droplets. To transfer or dispose of materials that contain blood or other potentially infectious materials, use labeled, closed, leakproof containers. If the outside of a container is contaminated, place it in a second labeled leakproof and, if need be, puncture-proof, container.

When handling contaminated instruments, wear protective gloves. Contaminated instruments or equipment should be covered or enclosed in a leakproof labeled container when being transported. Then, wear an impervious gown, gloves, mask, and goggles to decontaminate. Remember to use an EPA-approved disinfectant.

Examine equipment for contamination before it's shipped or sent for service. Decontaminate it if possible or label it clearly before it's sent out.
Job-related exposure to bloodborne pathogens most often results from contact with contaminated needles, scalpels, razor blades, and other sharps.

Be extra careful when you draw blood, dispose of used needles, administer medication, or collect and empty trash. OSHA requires that you NEVER:

- Break or shear contaminated needles.
- Bend, recap, or remove contaminated needles or other sharps unless required by a medical procedure. (If so, use a mechanical device or one-handed technique.)
Incorporate new procedures or technological developments whenever possible (i.e., needleless systems and sliding sheath needles).

Immediately place used sharps in special easy-to-recognize containers. The containers are either red or have a fluorescent orange or orange-red biohazard label and the word BIOHAZARD on them.

Sharps containers must also be:

- Puncture-resistant
- Leakproof
- Closable
- Upright at all times
- As close as possible to where sharps are found or used

Never reach into a container of contaminated sharps or open, empty, or clean containers holding sharps by hand.

Don't overfill the containers. OSHA requires regular removal and replacement to prevent overflow.

Attention law enforcement personnel: Wear gloves to search suspects or handle evidence. Turn bags upside down to empty them. Ask suspects to empty their pockets when possible.
Disposing of Contaminated Sharps

Take care to prevent possible exposure when your job requires you to remove and replace the containers that hold contaminated sharps. OSHA requires these containers to be removed and replaced often, so they don’t overflow. When you’re performing this task, follow these OSHA rules:

- Carefully close the container
- If there’s a risk of leaking, place it in a second closable, leakproof, labeled or color-coded container
- Take the container and any other contaminated waste to the assigned disposal area
- Dispose of the container safely, following your employer’s procedures.
Labeling

Learn to recognize labels, markers, and colors that identify containers that contain infectious materials—bags, storage and shipping containers, even refrigerators or freezers that contain blood or other potentially infectious materials.

To warn you of danger, containers must be:

- Red, or
- Have fluorescent orange or orange red labels that say BIOHAZARD and show this symbol.

You'll see the same colors and symbol on signs at entrances to certain labs and production facilities that work with infectious agents. The signs may be labeled "Biosafety Level 1," "Biosafety Level 2," or "Biosafety Level 3," depending on the hazards. They may also tell what infectious agent is used there and explain special requirements for entering the area and who is in charge.
Personal Protective Equipment and Clothing

Personal protective equipment (PPE) and clothing are an important part of your protection against BBPs.

This clothing and equipment must prevent blood or other potentially infectious materials from reaching your skin, eyes, mouth, mucous membranes, and work or street clothes.

OSHA requires employers to provide appropriate PPE in various sizes at no cost to employees. Employers also must, at no cost to employees:

- Launder, clean, and dispose of PPE properly
- Repair and replace PPE as needed to maintain effectiveness
Employees must wear assigned PPE and always:

- Remove PPE that's penetrated or grossly contaminated by blood or any potentially infectious material immediately—or as soon as possible.
- Remove PPE before leaving the work area or handling items such as phones, pens, etc.
- Place contaminated PPE in an assigned area or container for cleaning, storage, decontamination, or disposal.

**In an emergency...** Suppose an apparently stable patient begins to hemorrhage, or you have damaged resuscitation equipment and you must help a person who's not breathing. You may feel that PPE would get in the way of doing such a job or pose a hazard. If you make that judgment call, OSHA requires employer investigation and documentation. The goal is to figure out how to safely deal with such emergencies in the future.
Bloodborne Pathogens

Gloves

Proper gloves are an essential protection against bloodborne pathogens. OSHA requires employers to provide a good selection of gloves at the workplace and in emergency vehicles. For people allergic to the materials in standard protective gloves, employers must provide alternatives such as hypoallergenic gloves, glove liners, etc.

Wear gloves any time there’s a possibility of contact with potentially infectious materials or contaminated items or surfaces. If exposure to large amounts of blood is possible, wear gloves that fit tightly around the wrist. If you have a cut or other broken skin, bandage it before putting on gloves.
Put on clean gloves after each patient or procedure, or when they become contaminated—whichever comes first. Remember to take gloves off carefully so the outside doesn't touch your skin.

- Pinch the outside of the glove by the wrist area and slowly peel off the glove
- Bundle the removed glove in your gloved hand
- Remove the other glove by sliding the ungloved index finger inside the wrist flap and drawing the glove off
- Place the first glove in the second glove

**If you use disposable (single-use) gloves:**

- Do not wash or decontaminate them for reuse
- Replace them as soon as you can if they're contaminated, torn, punctured, etc.
- Dispose of them in properly labeled BIOHAZARD containers or by your facility's policy

Utility gloves may be decontaminated for reuse if they're in good condition. But gloves that are cracked, peeling, torn, punctured, etc., might not offer full protection. Dispose of them promptly in the proper containers.
Eye and Face Protection

You don't want to risk having blood or other potentially infectious materials splash, spray, or spatter your eyes or face. If your job could possibly expose you to such contact, wear a face mask and eye protection.

Place the mask on your face so it covers your nose and chin. The straps can go over your head or under your ears. Find the most comfortable fit for you.

Then choose effective eye protection. OSHA recommends that you use goggles or glasses with solid side shields and/or chin-length face shields, which help protect against splashes.
Protective Clothing

Some work situations demand special protective clothing. You may need to cover up with an:

- Apron
- Gown
- Lab coat
- Clinic jacket.

Be sure to select protective clothing that will really protect you from the hazards you face. Wear fluid-proof clothes if there's a risk of large splashes. Fluid-resistant clothes may be adequate for a task with minimal exposure potential.

Autopsies, orthopedic surgery, and other high-risk situations demand added protection. OSHA requires impervious surgical caps or hoods and/or shoe covers and boots for these tasks.
Bloodborne Pathogens

PPE Precautions

Inspect PPE carefully before putting it on. Don't use anything that's damaged!

Don't touch *uncontaminated* items while wearing PPE (they may become contaminated). Remove PPE before you go into a clean area.

To prevent contact with contaminated PPE, keep your gloves on to remove protective clothes. Handle clothes from the outside only. Don't touch your skin or street clothes.

Immediately place all contaminated PPE in the assigned area for storage, washing, decontamination, and disposal.
Used PPE, linens, and other laundry may contain infectious materials. Housekeeping and laundry workers must take special care to protect themselves and prevent the spread of infection.

To be safe with laundry, follow Universal Precautions. Assume all laundry is contaminated (if your facility does not use Universal Precautions for all laundry, keep contaminated laundry separate and transport it in labeled or color-coded bags). And follow all safety precautions when you handle it. That includes wearing gloves and other appropriate PPE.

In addition, OSHA requires employers to identify and train employees whose jobs involve contact with contaminated laundry so they understand the hazards and the procedures to follow to protect themselves.
To help prevent infection, OSHA also requires laundry and other staff to handle contaminated laundry as little as possible. Don't shake used linens. Roll them up with the soiled side on the inside.

Bag contaminated laundry where it was used, according to your facilities procedure. Use leakproof bags for wet laundry.

You must sort and rinse contaminated laundry in a room other than the one where it was used. Remember to use Universal Precautions in the laundry area, too.
Good Housekeeping

People whose jobs involve keeping health care facilities clean and sanitary play a vital role. There is, however, a small risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens while performing those jobs.

So be sure good housekeeping includes good protection. Wear impervious gloves (gloves that will not rip or tear, or let BBPs get onto your skin) when you’re handling soiled linens, transporting containers of contaminated items, or working anywhere around possibly contaminated waste.

OSHA requires employers to have a written schedule for cleaning and decontamination. It has to explain exactly what must be done and how often. Become familiar with the schedule and follow it carefully.
Bloodborne Pathogens

Good housekeeping involves all employees, too. OSHA requires employees to:

- Cover places where blood and/or body fluids may splatter, using plastic wrap, aluminum foil, or impervious absorbent paper—and remove those covers when they're contaminated
- Clean and decontaminate all equipment and surfaces that had contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials
- Decontaminate and clean reusable bins, pails, etc., regularly—immediately after they've had contact with potentially infectious materials
- Use a brush and pan, tongs, etc., not hands, to pick up broken glass that may be contaminated
- Never store or process contaminated reusable sharps where employees have to reach them by hand.
Employers must provide special training to all employees whose jobs could expose them to potentially infectious materials. Training must cover both the hazards and, most important, procedures that protect against them.

Training must take place during working hours, at no cost to employees. You receive training when you're assigned to a job with possible exposure and at least every year after that. Employers must provide added training when tasks or procedures change.

OSHA says employers must present training in a manner employees can understand, allowing them to ask questions on anything that's not clear.

Training is an important form of protection, so make the most of it.
OSHA says training must at least cover:

- The Bloodborne Pathogens Standard
- Symptoms and means of transmittal for bloodborne diseases
- Your employer's exposure control plan and how you can obtain a copy
- How to recognize tasks or activities that could expose you to blood and other potentially infectious materials
- Signs, warning labels, and/or color coding used on containers that could contain biohazards
- Engineering and work practice controls and PPE that reduce or prevent exposure
- How to select, use, remove, handle, decontaminate, and dispose of PPE
- Hepatitis B vaccine information
- Procedures to follow in emergencies involving blood or other potentially infectious materials
- What to do if you're involved in an exposure incident
- Employer-provided medical evaluation and follow-up for exposed employees.
Medical Evaluation

If you think you've been in direct contact with potentially infectious materials, report it immediately to your supervisor. Your employer will offer you a confidential medical evaluation and follow-up. You don't have to have this evaluation, but you should. It gives you the benefit of expert medical attention and consultation at no cost.

A medical evaluation first documents the potential exposure incident. If possible, the source individual's blood is tested and the exposed person is told the results.

A sample of your blood will also be taken and, if you consent, will be tested for HBV and HIV. You have up to 90 days to decide whether to have those tests.

A medical professional will explain the results of any tests to you and discuss any conditions that require further study or treatment. You'll receive counseling and recommendations on next steps to take.
Hepatitis B Vaccination

Another form of protection against blood-borne disease is the hepatitis B vaccine series. Employers must offer these vaccinations, plus booster doses recommended by the U.S. Public Health Service, to employees with possible job-related exposure. You won't be charged for this preventive service.

Employers must offer the vaccinations to employees after they're trained and within 10 working days of initial assignment to a job with possible exposure unless:

- You have had the complete vaccination series
- Antibody tests reveal you're immune
- You have medical reasons you can't be vaccinated

You'll have to sign a form if you don't want the vaccinations. If you change your mind later, inform your employer. You can still be vaccinated at no cost.

If you work in health care, a lab, or an emergency response position, it's a good idea to take advantage of this valuable protection.

Note: There is no approved vaccination to prevent contraction of hepatitis C.
Medical Records and Training

OSHA requires employers to keep confidential medical records on all employees whose jobs could expose them to BBPs. Each individual's record must include information on:

- Hepatitis B vaccinations
- Exposure incidents, including information provided to a health care professional, exam and test results, follow-up procedures, and the health professional's written opinion on the results

Employers must maintain a sharps injury log.

Employers also have to keep records on each employee's training.

Training records must be kept for at least three years.

You have the right to examine and copy your medical and training records or to have a representative see them.
Bloodborne Pathogens

Bloodborne Pathogens Review

Blood and other body fluids may carry BBPs that cause such diseases as:

- HIV, the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS
- HBV, the hepatitis B virus that can cause serious liver problems
- HCV, the hepatitis C virus that is also dangerous to the liver

OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard was created to protect health care, emergency response, lab, and other employees at risk. Become familiar with the Standard and your employer's written Exposure Control Plan. Take advantage of protections your employer must provide.

If your job could expose you to blood or other potentially infectious materials:

☐ Practice Universal Precautions—treat all blood and potentially infectious materials as if they are infectious.

☐ Pay attention to training that explains the hazards you face—and the ways you can protect yourself.

☐ Get the no-cost hepatitis B vaccination series.

☐ Report any exposure incidents immediately and use the medical assistance you're offered.
Employers Want to Help

Employers must take active steps to reduce the chances that their employees will be exposed to bloodborne pathogens on the job.

They provide:

- **Engineering controls** to remove or isolate the hazard or place some barrier between the employee and exposure to the hazard.

- **Work practice controls** to change how employees perform a task in order to eliminate or minimize exposure.

- **Protective clothing** to prevent direct contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials.
Make these precautions a habit:

- Wash your hands with soap and water immediately after contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials
- Avoid recapping needles
- Never break or shear contaminated needles
- Dispose of used sharps in leakproof, puncture-proof labeled biohazard containers
- Dispose of contaminated laundry in leakproof bags, avoiding direct contact and minimizing handling
- Wear gloves or other PPE when you have contact with people and when handling instruments, laundry, or other items that might be contaminated
- Remove PPE properly before leaving the work area or handling uncontaminated items

Take care of yourself! Be aware of the hazards of bloodborne illness and make full use of the protections your employer provides.
7 Dictionary of Terms

AIDS Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, a disease that may develop from HIV infection and leaves the body unable to fight off other diseases.

Amniotic fluid Fluid found in the amniotic cavity which holds the fetus.

Blood Human blood, its components, or products made from it.

Bloodborne pathogens Microorganisms present in human blood that can cause disease in humans, such as hepatitis B and human immunodeficiency viruses (HBV and HIV).

Cerebrospinal fluid Fluid contained in and around the brain and in the spinal cord.

Clinical laboratory Workplace where diagnostic or other screening procedures are performed on blood or other potentially infectious materials.

Contaminated Blood or other potentially infectious materials that are on an item or surface or are reasonably anticipated to be there.

Contaminated laundry Laundry soiled with blood or other potentially infectious materials or which may contain sharps.

Contaminated sharps Any contaminated objects that can penetrate the skin, including needles, scalpels, broken glass or capillary tubes, and exposed ends of dental wires.

Decontaminate To remove, inactivate, or destroy bloodborne pathogens on a surface or item by physical or chemical means so they can't be transmitted. Also, making the surface or item safe to handle, use, or dispose of.

Disinfect To destroy or make inactive virtually all recognized microorganisms on inanimate objects such as clothing, though not necessarily destroying all microbial forms.

Engineering controls Controls such as self-sheathing needles that remove the bloodborne pathogens hazard or isolate it from the employee.

Exposure Control Plan An employer-written plan that identifies potential employee bloodborne pathogen exposure and schedules and implements means of control that meet OSHA standards.
Bloodborne Pathogens

Exposure incident Specific contact between blood or other potentially infectious materials and an employee's eye, mouth, mucous membrane; non-intact or pierced skin that occurs as a result of performing job duties.

Hand-washing facility Facility with an adequate supply of running potable water, soap, and either single-use towels or hot air drying machines.

HBV Hepatitis B virus, a bloodborne pathogen that may severely damage the liver and cause cancer.

HCV Hepatitis C virus, a highly contagious bloodborne pathogen that causes liver disease.

Health care workers People, including trainees and students, whose jobs involve contact with patients, blood, or other patients' body fluids, in a health care setting.

HIV Human immunodeficiency virus, a bloodborne pathogen that can lead to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), a disease in which the body is unable to fight off other diseases.

Infectious waste Blood and blood products, contaminated sharps, and pathological and microbiological wastes.

Licensed health care professional Person legally permitted to independently perform hepatitis B vaccinations and evaluation and follow-up of anyone exposed to bloodborne pathogens on the job.

Needleless system Devices that do not use needles for the collection of bodily fluids, administering medication, or any other procedure that might expose a person to a sharps hazard.

Occupational exposure Employee skin, eye, mucous membrane, or skin-piercing contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that may reasonably be anticipated to result from performance of an employee's duties.

Other potentially infectious materials Any body fluid visibly contaminated with blood, as well as such body fluids as semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, and saliva in dental procedures. Also, any unfixed human tissue or organ from a living or dead person (except intact skin); HIV- or HBV-containing cell or tissue cultures, organ cultures, culture medium or other solutions; and blood, organs, or other tissues from experimental animals infected with HIV or HBV.
**Bloodborne Pathogens**

**Parenteral** Exposure that results from piercing the skin.

**Pathogen** A microorganism or virus that can cause disease.

**Pericardial fluid** Fluid in the sac that surrounds the heart and the roots of the great vessels.

**Peritoneal fluid** Fluid found in the lining of the abdominopelvic walls.

**Personal protective equipment (PPE)** Specialized clothing or equipment an employee wears as protection from a hazard.

**Pleural fluid** Fluid found in the membranes of the lungs.

**Production facility** Facility engaged in industrial-scale, large volume production of HIV or HBV or high-concentration production of HIV or HBV.

**Regulated waste** Liquid or semiliquid blood or other potentially infectious materials; contaminated items that could release such materials if compressed; items caked with dried blood or other potentially infectious materials that could release those materials when handled; contaminated sharps; pathological and microbiological wastes containing blood or other potentially infectious materials.

**Research laboratory** Laboratory that produces research laboratory-scale amounts of HIV or HBV.

**Sharps** Any objects that can penetrate the skin, such as needles, scalpels, and broken capillary tubes.

**Sharps with engineered sharps injury protection** A needle device with a built-in safety feature that reduces the sharp hazard (i.e., slide sheathing needles).

**Source individual** Individual, living or dead, whose blood or other potentially infectious materials may be a source of occupational exposure to the employee.

**Sterilize** Destroy all microbial life with a physical or chemical procedure.

**Synovial fluid** Fluid contained in the synovial membrane and in joints and tendons.

**Universal precautions** An infection control method that treats all human blood and certain human body fluids as if they are infectious for HIV, HBV, and other bloodborne pathogens.

**Work practice controls** Altering the way in which a task is performed to reduce the likelihood of exposure.
Test Your BBP Knowledge

True or False:

1. The hepatitis B Virus (HBV) is more common than the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

2. Universal Precautions means treating all blood and body fluids as if they are infected.

3. The most common form of job-related exposure to BBPs is surgical procedures.

4. Gloves are one of the most important forms of PPE.

5. Proper containers for used sharps and contaminated items are colored black.

6. Employers are required to keep a written Exposure Control Plan and train employees to use it.

7. Engineering controls include the use of puncture-resistant, leakproof containers, disposable airway equipment, and splash guards.

8. HBV is the virus that causes AIDS.

9. After removing contaminated PPE, you should place it in an assigned area or container for storage, cleaning, decontamination, or disposal.

10. You should receive training when you're assigned to a job with possible BBP exposure, and at least every year after that.

Answers:

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. False
6. True
7. True
8. False
9. True
10. True
I have read the **Bloodborne Pathogens Pocket Guide**. I understand the requirements of the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard. I also understand my role in preventing exposure to bloodborne pathogens on the job.

________________________
Employee Name *(print)*

________________________
Employee Signature

________________________
Date

________________________
Supervisor Name *(print)*

________________________
Supervisor Signature

________________________
Date