



What are bloodborne pathogens and other potentially infectious materials?

Bloodborne pathogens are infectious microorganisms in human blood that can cause disease in humans. All occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials places workers at risk for infection with bloodborne pathogens, including HIV and hepatitis.

- Blood is considered human blood, human blood components, and products made from human blood.
- Other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) are defined as human body fluids, any unfixed tissue or organ (other than intact skin) from a human (living or dead), and HIV-containing cells, tissues, cultures, and blood.
- Wear the proper personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves, glasses or goggles, masks, booties, and/or aprons).
- Clean and decontaminate all equipment and surfaces after contact with blood or OPIM.
- Place soiled linen in leak-proof bags located nearby.
- Do not eat, drink, apply cosmetics, or handle contact lenses where blood or OPIM may be present.
- Before leaving your work area, place personal protective equipment in appropriate areas.

To prevent exposure to bloodborne pathogens and OPIM:

- Treat all blood and bodily fluids as potentially infectious.



What if I'm exposed?

If you are stuck by a needle or other sharp or get blood or OPIM in your eyes, nose, mouth, or on broken skin:

1. Immediately flood the exposed area with water.
2. Clean any wound with soap and water or a skin disinfectant if available.
3. Report this immediately to your employer and seek immediate medical attention.