

Safety Spotlight

Practical tips to keep you safe

Bloodborne Pathogens

Bloodborne pathogens are viruses or bacteria that are present in blood and other bodily fluids, which can cause disease in humans. The most notable of these are the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV, the disease which causes AIDS), Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C.



How Do Bloodborne Pathogens Spread?

- Sexual transmission or the sharing of infected needles
- Accidental injection with a contaminated object
- Indirect transmission such as touching a contaminated surface, then touching your eyes, nose, mouth or broken skin.
- The splash of contaminated fluids into the eyes, nose mouth, or broken skin.

How Can you Protect Yourself?

- Treat all blood and other potentially infectious materials as if they ARE infectious
- Wear Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) such as gloves and eye protection to prevent skin or mucous membrane contact with bodily fluids.
- Inspect PPE before use to be sure it's undamaged.
- Use extreme caution to prevent needle sticks and dispose of used sharps in puncture-proof containers.
- Use tongs or a similar tool, not your hands, to clean up broken glass.
- Wash carefully with soap and water after any exposure to blood or bodily fluids.
- Blood should only be cleaned up by trained personnel utilizing appropriate disinfection solution.
- Report any exposure to infectious materials immediately

