

# Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP)

## What are Bloodborne Pathogens:

Microscopic organisms can be found in human blood and other potentially infectious materials such as vomit, urine, feces, semen, vaginal fluid, etc. These organisms can enter the body through the eyes, nose, mouth, mucous membranes and open cuts in the skin and cause diseases such as HBV, HCV and HIV/AIDS.

## Potential Risk/Hazard:

Employees could become infected with various diseases (Hepatitis, HIV, etc...) due to a workplace exposure to bloodborne pathogens.

## How to Minimize the Risk/Hazard:

Assume all blood and bodily fluids may carry infectious diseases (Universal Precautions) and attempt to minimize exposure through proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), use of safe cleanup procedures and use of applicable disinfectant chemicals.

## Key Requirements for Compliance:

1. **Designate**
  - Assign a Bloodborne Pathogen Director.
  - Establish a “First Responder” team to handle bloodborne pathogen concerns.
2. **Plan**
  - Prepare and maintain a written Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan.
  - Institute a Universal Precautions policy.
  - Complete Occupation Exposure Determination form.
  - Establish medical evaluation procedures with a selected clinic.
3. **Review**
  - Annually review the components of the bloodborne pathogen exposure control plan.
4. **Vaccination**
  - Offer the Hepatitis B vaccine (free of charge) to “occupationally exposed” employees within 10 days of hire. If the employee declines the vaccine, then have them sign the declination form to prove that they were at least offered the vaccine.
5. **Training**
  - Provide employee training on bloodborne pathogens prior to initial assignment.
  - Provide annual refresher training for “occupationally exposed” employees.
6. **PPE**
  - Provide employees with proper PPE, disinfectant chemicals, etc...
7. **Disposal**
  - Establish proper waste and sharps disposal procedures.

## An Exposure Incident has Occurred:

1. **Wash/Flush Area**
  - Exposed individual should immediately wash and flush the area of exposure.
2. **Report**
  - Exposed individual should immediately report the potential exposure to BBP Director.
3. **Medical Attention**
  - Employer should immediately send the exposed individual to a licensed physician for a confidential post-exposure medical evaluation and follow-up and complete the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development – Workers Compensation form WKC-8165 (Determination of Exposure to Blood/Body Fluids).
4. **Contact**
  - Contact EMC for further assistance, information or with any questions.

## **Bloodborne Spill Clean-up**

### **1. PPE**

- Put on disposable gloves. Use additional PPE as necessary.

### **2. Evaluate**

- Evaluate area for contaminated sharps or sharp objects. Isolate area as necessary to ensure contamination does not spread.

### **3. Disinfect**

- Spray appropriate disinfectant onto all affected surfaces. Allow disinfectant to stand for 10 minutes or as recommended by manufacturer.

### **4. Apply Absorbent**

- Carefully apply absorbent material to render fluids to a semi-solid state.

### **5. Dispose**

- All regulated waste must be placed in a red biohazard bag for proper disposal. Contact your supervisor on specific waste handling procedures.
- For waste that is not regulated, immediately place waste in outdoor waste dumpster.
- Collect bulk material and place into disposal bag. If sharps are present, use appropriate sharps container in lieu of disposal bag.
- For large spills or those where waste could release blood or bodily fluids, evaluate whether or not waste is regulated and requires special disposal. If in doubt, contact your supervisor for advice.

### **6. Disinfect**

- Reapply disinfectant and thoroughly clean all affected areas. Place all disposable cleaning materials into disposal bag. Disinfect any non-disposable items.

### **7. Complete Disposal**

- Carefully remove disposable gloves to ensure there is no contact between your skin and the outside of the gloves. Place gloves in disposal bag. Seal disposal bag.

### **8. Wash**

- Wash hands and face with warm soap and water.