



# Protect Yourself From Bloodborne Pathogens

## What are Bloodborne Pathogens?

**Bloodborne Pathogens** are pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and 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).

## How can bloodborne pathogens be transmitted?

Bloodborne pathogens are transmitted by contact with infected blood or other bodily fluids.

## What are the routes of entry for bloodborne pathogens?

- ◆ Mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, and mouth
- ◆ Open sores
- ◆ Cold sores
- ◆ Cuts
- ◆ Abrasions
- ◆ Hangnails
- ◆ Any sort of damaged or broken skin such as sunburn, blisters, or rashes.
- ◆ Needle sticks

## What are high-risk activities or areas?

Treating/cleaning -	Areas-
Bloody noses	First Aid
Cuts	Bathrooms
Abrasions	Trashcans
Vomit	Special Ed. Classrooms (with students prone to Biting, scratching or lashing out)
Blood or bodily fluids on floors/furniture	

## How can you protect yourself from bloodborne pathogens?

- ◆ Treat all bodily fluids as though they are infected.
- ◆ Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when cleaning bodily fluids.
- ◆ Appropriate PPE depends on the situation but always includes non-permeable latex style gloves.
- ◆ Remove any rings or jewelry that could cut through the gloves.
- ◆ Place a band-aid over any open wounds, as an added layer of protection should the glove fail.
- ◆ When picking up sharp objects such as contaminated broken glass, use tongs or wear leather gloves over your latex gloves.
- ◆ Remove PPE in a manner that will not contaminate your bare skin and dispose of properly.
- ◆ Decontaminate all equipment (mops, sponges, buckets, etc.) used during the cleanup with an appropriate disinfectant before returning to storage or use.

## What should you do if an exposure occurs?

- ◆ Immediately flush the exposed area with soap and water or a skin disinfectant if available. If fluids get in your eyes, irrigate them immediately with water or saline.
- ◆ Report the exposure immediately to your supervisor.
- ◆ Promptly seek medical attention.

**For more information contact your supervisor or refer to District / Board Policy # EBBA.**