

Safety Precautions

Use Universal Precautions – assume anything that could be infectious is infectious and treat it appropriately.

Wear your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



Wear gloves whenever you could encounter blood or OPIM.



Wear a lab coat or other coverings if materials could splash on clothing.



Wear goggles and a mask or face shield if materials could splash on face.

- Remove PPE if it becomes contaminated or defective and always remove PPE before leaving your work area.
- Remove PPE slowly and carefully to prevent exposure from substances on the PPE.

Wash hands thoroughly after removing PPE and before leaving your work area.

Maintain as much distance as possible between you and the blood or OPIM:

- Use Tongs, a broom and dustpan, or anything else available (2 pieces of paper) to pick up discarded syringes.
- Use a broom and dustpan to collect broken glass.
- Use a mop to clean up blood and OPIM spills.

Don't eat, drink, apply cosmetics or lip balm, or handle contact lenses in any work areas where there is the possibility for exposure to blood or OPIM.

Don't place food or drinks in refrigerators, freezers, shelves, countertops, or other areas where blood or OPIM is stored or handled.

Remember

Under the right conditions, bloodborne pathogens can survive outside the body and still remain infectious.

- HIV can survive up to 6 days
- HBV can survive up to 7 days
- HCV can survive up to 3 weeks

This is why it is so important to wear your PPE when there is the possibility for exposure.



Report all Incidents

Send EH&S an incident report if you:

- Find abandoned sharps
- Find blood or OPIM
- Are injured

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BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS IN THE WORKPLACE



Environmental Health & Safety



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Bloodborne Pathogens

Bloodborne pathogens (BBP) are microorganisms found in blood and other potentially infectious materials which can cause disease in humans. The 3 most common are:

- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
- Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)
- Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)

Other Potentially Infectious Materials (OPIM) include:

1. The following bodily fluids:
 - Semen and vaginal secretions
 - Fluid surrounding organs (brain, heart, joints, etc.)
 - Saliva if blood is present
 - Body fluids visibly contaminated with blood
 - Body fluids that can't be distinguished
2. Any unfixated tissue or organ (other than intact skin) from a human (living or dead)

BBP are transmitted through contact with infected blood or OPIM. At work exposure usually occurs from:

- Accidental puncture from contaminated needles, broken glass, or other sharps.
- Contact between broken or damaged skin, or a mucous membrane, and infected substances.

These are some activities can cause exposure:

- Handling/cleaning up syringes or other sharps
- Cleaning up broken containers that contained, or were contaminated with, blood or OPIM
- Cleaning surfaces or handling laundry contaminated with blood or OPIM
- Providing emergency first-aid treatment
- Restraining combative infected people

Clean-up and Decontamination

If something becomes contaminated with blood or OPIM it must be cleaned with an appropriate disinfectant as soon as possible.

1. When cleaning a spill, restrict access so only people involved in clean-up are present.
2. Put on PPE.
3. If sharps are present, use tongs or a broom and dustpan to carefully move them to a sharps container.
4. Use absorbent/paper towels to soak up any spilled material.
5. Clean the area with Waxie HP Disinfectant Cleaner 730, diluted to 2 oz. per gallon of water.
6. Saturate the contaminated area with the disinfectant from step 5.
7. Leave the disinfectant on for 10 minutes; the contaminated area must remain wet for the full 10 minutes.
8. Wipe up excess liquid with absorbent/paper towels
9. Dispose of towels, cleaning materials, and PPE in a biohazard waste container.
10. Disinfect any cleaning materials (broom, dustpan, mop, sponges ...) that were used by soaking them in disinfectant for 10 minutes, removing excess liquid and allowing them to air dry.

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BBP Exposure Response



If you have an exposure to blood or OPIM:

1. Thoroughly clean the affected area for 15 minutes:
 - Wash skin with soap and warm water.
 - Flush splashes to nose or mouth with water.
 - Irrigate eyes with clean water, saline, or a sterile irrigant.
2. Report the exposure to your supervisor.
3. After washing/rinsing you should seek medical attention:
 - Make sure to tell the medical provider you had potential exposure to bloodborne pathogens.
 - Inform the medical provider that you were injured at work. **DO NOT** use your insurance, L&I will pay for this visit.
4. Fill out an incident report as soon as possible.
 - If you elect not to seek medical attention, fill out an [Informed Refusal for Medical Evaluation](#) form and submit it with your incident report.