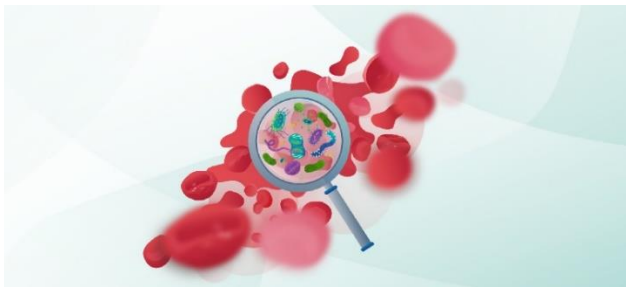


# SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

## BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

Bloodborne pathogens are infectious microorganisms present in blood and other bodily fluids that can cause diseases in humans. Key pathogens include HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), which can lead to AIDS, Hepatitis B (HBV), and Hepatitis C (HCV), which can cause serious liver damage.



### How Do Bloodborne Pathogens Spread?

- Direct contact with infected blood or bodily fluids.
- Accidental punctures by contaminated needles or sharp objects.
- Mucous membrane exposure (eyes, nose, mouth) to blood splashes.
- Contact with broken skin or open wounds after touching contaminated surfaces.

### Protecting Yourself in the Educational Environment

To minimize risk, follow these safety practices:

- 1) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
  - a) Always use gloves, masks, and other PPE to avoid skin or mucous membrane contact with blood or bodily fluids.
  - b) Store PPE in easily accessible areas where exposure might occur (e.g., science labs, medical rooms).
- 2) Hand Hygiene
  - a) Wash hands and other exposed skin areas thoroughly with soap and water immediately after any potential contamination.
  - b) Use hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are unavailable.
- 3) Handling Sharps and Contaminated Waste

- a) Use red biohazard bags for waste that may contain bloodborne pathogens.
  - b) Dispose of sharps (e.g., needles, glass) in designated, puncture-resistant containers. Never use your bare hands to handle broken glass or sharp objects.
- 4) Disinfection and Cleanup Protocols
    - a) Only trained personnel should clean up blood or bodily fluids using appropriate disinfectants.
    - b) Ensure a disinfecting solution is available in high-risk areas and follow cleanup protocols strictly.
  - 5) First Aid and CPR Precautions
    - a) When performing CPR, always use a pocket mask or face shield to avoid direct contact.
    - b) Report any exposure incidents to your supervisor immediately for appropriate follow-up.
  - 6) Handling Contaminated Clothing
    - a) Carefully remove contaminated clothing by turning it inside out without touching your skin.
    - b) Wash soiled clothing separately in hot water with bleach.

### Report and Respond

If you are exposed to potentially infectious materials, follow these steps:

- Report Immediately: Notify your supervisor as soon as possible.
- Seek Medical Evaluation: Visit the healthcare provider recommended by your district for exposure assessment.

### Stay Informed

Familiarize yourself with your district's Exposure Control Plan and California's Title 8, Section 5193 regulations on bloodborne pathogens.

Contact your ASCIP Risk Services Consultant or our Risk Services team at [RM\\_Info@ascip.org](mailto:RM_Info@ascip.org) for questions or to discuss further.

Helping to keep our member's employees safe! This Safety Spotlight brought to you by: