

# Bloodborne Pathogens

## Safety Meeting Packet

### Protect Your Workforce



Bloodborne pathogens are microorganisms in the body that carry and transmit diseases. These diseases can be transmitted through blood and other potentially infectious materials (OPIM). According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), OPIM includes “semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva in dental procedures, any body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood, and all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids.”

There are many risks associated with working with blood and other potentially infectious materials (OPIM). Making sure to take the necessary precautions can reduce the possibility of an exposure incident occurring.

### General Safety Information

- Anything containing waste products, sharp objects, or any item storing hazardous materials must be labeled properly.
- Regular training on handling techniques needs to be provided to ensure proper conduct by all employees.
- Consider developing controls that help limit exposure to bloodborne pathogens or other infectious materials. These could be self-sheathing needles, proper sharps disposal system, and possible needle-free systems.
- In the case of accidental exposure, a plan must be in place for all employees to receive the quickest help possible in case of an emergency.



- The vaccinations for Hepatitis B and other diseases should be made available to employees who are regularly exposed to the diseases in question.
- OSHA requires a sharps injury log for all injuries

### Personal Protective Equipment

Personal protective equipment (PPEs) can help reduce employees' exposure to bloodborne pathogens. OSHA requires that all employers must maintain proper equipment for all employees who may encounter bloodborne pathogens. This includes cleaning, repairing, and replacing equipment when necessary at no cost to employees.

- If a worker is reasonably expected to have hand contact with any infectious fluids, gloves must be provided.
- More equipment may be provided if preferred or if more exposure is likely. Items such as masks which cover the mouth and nose, and goggles are helpful, along with gowns or lab coats.
- If the most extreme exposure is likely, then caps, shoe covers and other equipment as deemed necessary is appropriate.

### Post-PPE Use

After using PPEs, proper disposal or decontamination is crucial to limit any potential blood or fluid exposure.

- Personal protective equipment must be removed before leaving the work area
- If equipment is a single-use item or is soiled with blood, equipment must be disposed of
- Other items not ruined can be sanitized in proper containers labeled as such
- Employees should wash hands with warm, soapy water before leaving the work area

## Worker Training

It is recommended that employers educate their workers about potential dangers of bloodborne pathogens and the safety equipment and procedures available to avoid exposure.

- Identify the proper labeling method for items containing waste products, sharp objects, or other hazardous materials, as employees should be able to identify these items quickly and accurately.
- Review how to report and track exposure or sharps injuries (i.e. needle stick injuries)
- Show employees where exposure guidelines are posted within the workplace
- Personal protective equipment should include, but is not limited to, gloves, goggles, face masks, caps, gowns/lab coats, shoe covers, and other necessary equipment.
- The above protective equipment should be provided to employees who have the potential to be exposed to bloodborne pathogens. Before this equipment is provided to an employee, that employee should be trained on how to inspect the equipment for damage and how the equipment functions prior to relying on the equipment for protection.

- Prior to being issued protective equipment, employees should understand when and how to clean or dispose of personal protective equipment. Cleaning and disposal should be reviewed for each item of protective clothing an employee may use, as requirements may change based on what protective equipment was used.
- Review company hygiene requirements (i.e. washing hands after possible exposure)

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Review the OSHA standards below for more information regarding bloodborne pathogens:

- 29 CFR 1910.1030: Bloodborne Pathogens
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# Bloodborne Pathogens Safety Meeting Attendance Acknowledgement

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Department / Division \_\_\_\_\_  
 Meeting Date & Time \_\_\_\_\_  AM  PM  
 Meeting Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name & Title of Individual Conducting Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

## Key Meeting Discussion Points / Important Reminders:

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## Internal Procedures Reviewed:

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By signing this document, you confirm your attendance at the meeting and acknowledge the issues addressed above!

Employees in Attendance		
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
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(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____

Employees not present: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions/Recommendations to improve workplace safety and health: \_\_\_\_\_

Actions Taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Manager/Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Disclaimer:**

The information provided above was assembled using multiple resources. However, these materials do not contain ALL the information available regarding the required safety standards under local, provincial, state, or federal law for your industry.

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