

Bloodborne Pathogens Awareness

Acknowledgments: Office of Risk Management

1. Introduction

- OSHA requires employers to establish a written program for preventing the spread of Bloodborne disease
- UL Lafayette has a written plan to keep employees informed:
https://safety.louisiana.edu/sites/safety/files/Sec12%20BBP%20and%20other%20communicable%20illnesses%209th%20ed_1.pdf
- If an employee comes across blood, they do not have to clean it up. They are to immediately notify their supervisor or the Safety Office (2-1840) or Facility Mgmt (2-6440) for instructions.

2. Bloodborne Disease

- Microorganisms that are present in the human blood that can cause disease.
- Examples include: HIV, HBV, HCV

3. Infectious Material

- BLOOD or
- fluids from the body (urine, feces, vomit, semen, vaginal fluids)

4. Universal Precautions

- Always wear safety glasses and latex or non-latex plastic gloves
- Goggles, face shields and other PPE are to be made available
- Gloves must be removed carefully in proper sequence (outside of the glove away from skin)

5. Safe Work Practices

- Restroom cleaning and maintenance are not considered occupational exposure
- Sheathed Sharps may be discarded as normal
- Un-sheathed Sharps must be discarded by the user (off campus).
- Discarded feminine hygiene products are not considered regulated waste as long as they are in lined containers. Blood outside of a lined container is a potential exposure.
- Do NOT handle trash from inside a can with bare or gloved hands
- Always wash your hands after taking off gloves

6. Routine clean-up

- Small drops of blood or body fluid can be cleaned up without “occupational exposure”
- If an employee comes into contact with someone else’s blood, they must advise their supervisor immediately for appropriate action
- If an employee cleans up small amounts of blood, it is considered voluntary. Blood cleanup is not a condition of employment.
- For major blood or fluid loss, or whenever a volunteer does not clean up the loss, a qualified contractor will be used.

7. Cleaning a spill

- Cleanup fluids before applying the disinfectant (bleach or another approved disinfectant)
- Properly dispose of contaminated clothing or debris at spill in lined container/bag.
- Leave the surface wet with the disinfectant for at least 10 minutes
- Thoroughly wash hands, arms, and other exposed body part with soap and water