

Bloodborne Pathogens (BBPs)

LOUISIANA DELTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Bloodborne Pathogens Rules & Regulations

- **Office of Risk Management (ORM) requires**
 - development of a bloodborne pathogens plan
 - low risk employees to be trained within 3 months of employment and once every *five* years thereafter
 - high risk employees to be trained within 3 months of employment and at least *annually* thereafter.
- College Bloodborne Pathogens Plan is updated and available to all employees in the online safety manual contained on the Delta's Health and Safety Plan website.
- Goal - the goal of the program and training is to reduce accidents involving bloodborne pathogens.

High Risk Employees

- An employee who is employed in an occupation that increases their risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens.
 - Must be trained annually
 - Must be offered Hepatitis B vaccine - free of charge.
 - ***If vaccine is declined, the employee must sign a declination statement.***

High Risk Occupations at Delta

- Health Services Faculty
- Maintenance Staff
- Police Officers

What are Bloodborne Pathogens?

- Microorganisms (viruses or bacteria) that are carried in the blood and cause disease in humans
- Some of the types of diseases caused by BBPs:
 - Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) = AIDS
 - Hepatitis - many types
 - Malaria
 - Syphilis
 - Many Others

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

- Transmitted by blood and other body fluids. Most commonly transmitted through: unprotected sex, drug users (needles), and blood (transfusions, etc.)
- Attacks the immune system, eventually leads to AIDS which is fatal. There is no vaccine and no known cure. HIV can be dormant for many years.
- The virus is somewhat fragile and will not live long outside of the human body.

Hepatitis

- There are many types of Hepatitis: A, B, C, D, and E.
- Transmitted through blood and other bodily fluids.
- The highest risk when working around bloodborne pathogens is Hepatitis B.
- Hepatitis infects the liver causing swelling and in many cases leads to cirrhosis.
- Can survive for six months in proper environment, can survive for 1 week in dried blood.
- Vaccine is available for Hepatitis B. It is available free of charge to all employees with regular exposure to bloodborne pathogens.

Are Bloodborne Pathogens Only in Blood?

- Bloodborne pathogens can be transmitted through contact with infected human blood and other potentially infectious body fluids such as:
 - Saliva (chewing tobacco juice; dental procedures)
 - Urine
 - Semen or vaginal secretions
 - Vomit
 - Amniotic fluid
 - Any body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood

How can Bloodborne Pathogens Enter My Body?

- Routes of Entry Include:
 - Cuts, Open Sores, Abrasions, Acne, Sunburn or anywhere where skin is not intact
 - Mucous membranes - eyes, nose, & mouth
 - Accidental puncture from contaminated needles and other sharps is the most common work related source of contamination.

How can I protect myself from Bloodborne Pathogens?

If you are ever required to work with blood or the other bodily fluids listed you should make sure to use
“Universal Precautions”

What are Universal Precautions?

- Precautions taken when working with blood or other body fluids. The precautions involve protecting yourself from these materials entering your body.
- Specifically universal precautions involves using good judgment & personal protective equipment such as gloves, face shields, masks (used during CPR), etc.
- The simple explanation: “If its wet and it isn’t yours don’t touch it with your bare hands.”

More Practices to Protect Against Bloodborne Pathogens (BBPs)

- **Gloves** - always should be worn when working around BBPs. Be careful to wash hands before putting gloves on. Carefully examine gloves to ensure gloves do not have any holes or tears. Once work is completed, do not use bare hands to remove gloves.



More Practices to Protect Against Bloodborne Pathogens (BBPs)

- **Hand Washing** - one of the most valuable and simple practices in protecting against BBPs. Make sure to use antibacterial soap. Hands should be washed:
 - Immediately after removing PPE
 - Every time before eating and also before preparing food.
- *A hand sanitizer can be used but wash with soap and water as soon as possible.

More Practices to Protect Against Bloodborne Pathogens (BBPs)

- Do not eat, drink, smoke, apply cosmetics, or handle contact lenses when working with or around BBPs.
- Use of good engineering practices & controls
 - Personal protective equipment - gloves, face shields, goggles, masks, lab coats, etc.
 - Needles, PPE, and other equipment designed for single use should never be reused and should be disposed of properly in an approved container
 - Use of proper sharps containers & biological waste storage. Sharps containers must be puncture resistant.
 - Equipment & PPE that will be reused should be completely disinfected after each use.

Decontamination Procedures for Bloodborne Pathogens

- When should I decontaminate an area?
 - At the end of a work shift
 - After any spill of blood or other potentially infectious material. If you are unsure if the material spilled is BBP contaminated, presume that it is and proceed accordingly.
 - After any work procedures that result in BBP contamination
- **How do I decontaminate an area?**
 - Use a solution of bleach and water (1:10) ratio. 1 part bleach to 9 parts water.
 - Or use an EPA-registered disinfectant (read the label to know if it is registered)
 - Rags and other material used for cleaning should be treated as BBP contaminated biological waste and should be disposed of accordingly.

Cleaning Up BBP Spill

- Put on the appropriate PPE. Bloodborne pathogens or bodily fluid spill kit is located in every campuses.
- Do an initial wipe up.
- Spray and allow the disinfectant to stand for 10 minutes or as long as the label directions indicate then wipe up.
- Dispose of all cleaning materials in biohazard waste containers.
- PPE should be removed and disposed of in the biohazard containers as well.

Signs & Labels

- Labels must include the universal biohazard symbol, and the term “Biohazard” must be attached to:
 - containers of regulated biohazard waste
 - refrigerators or freezers containing blood or other potentially infectious material
 - containers used to store, transport, or ship blood or other potentially infectious material



What to Do if You are Exposed to BBPs?

- What should you do if you are or suspect that you have been exposed to bloodborne pathogens?
 - Immediately clean & wash area with antibacterial soap.
 - Report the exposure to your supervisor
 - Follow the procedures in Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan as written in Delta's Health and Safety Plan
 - Document the exposure incident (who, what, when, where, why, & how)
 - Identify the source individual of the exposure - obtain consent from the source, test source's blood ASAP
 - Make sure that you are tested for BBPs (at a minimum test for HIV & Hepatitis B)
 - Get medical counseling and vaccine