

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.

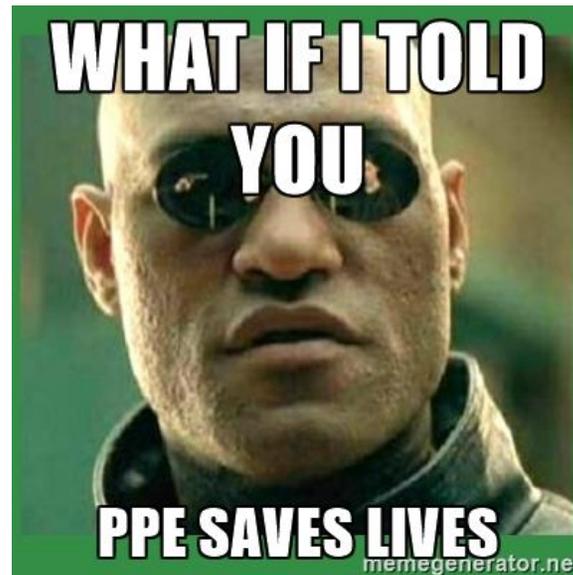
Don't place food or drinks in refrigerators, freezers, shelves, countertops, or other areas where blood or OPIM is stored or handled.

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



EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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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, ...)
 - Saliva if blood is present
 - Body fluids visibly contaminated with blood
 - Body fluids that can't be distinguished
2. Any unfixed 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 fresh 10% bleach or other EPA-registered disinfectant¹.
6. Saturate the contaminated area with the disinfectant from step 4.
7. Leave the disinfectant on for 10 minutes (or as specified by product manufacturer¹) or allow to air dry.
8. Dispose of towels, cleaning materials, and PPE in appropriate waste container.
9. Disinfect any cleaning materials (broom, dustpan, mop, sponges ...) that were exposed to contamination by soaking in disinfectant and allowing them to air dry.



¹Follow manufacturer guidelines for concentration and the amount of time the product should remain in contact with the surface for effective decontamination.

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.
 - Employees of EWU should inform their medical provider that they were injured at work. DO NOT use your insurance, L&I will pay for this visit.
4. You or your supervisor must fill out an incident report within 24 hours of the exposure.
 - If you elect not to seek medical attention fill out an *Informed Refusal for Medical Evaluation* form on the EH&S website.