



Bloodborne Pathogens



Annual Training



Objectives

- To educate school employees about the risks associated with bloodborne pathogens
 - Exposure to bloodborne pathogens can occur during accidents, first aid procedures, or while handling contaminated materials.
- To provide strategies for prevention



What are Bloodborne Pathogens?



- **Definition:** Bloodborne pathogens are microorganisms such as viruses and bacteria that can be present in human blood and cause diseases when transmitted to others.
- **Examples:** HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), HBV (Hepatitis B Virus), HCV (Hepatitis C Virus).
- **Routes of transmission:** Bloodborne pathogens can be transmitted through contact with infected blood or bodily fluids, including needle sticks, cuts, or mucous membrane contact.



OSHA Standards



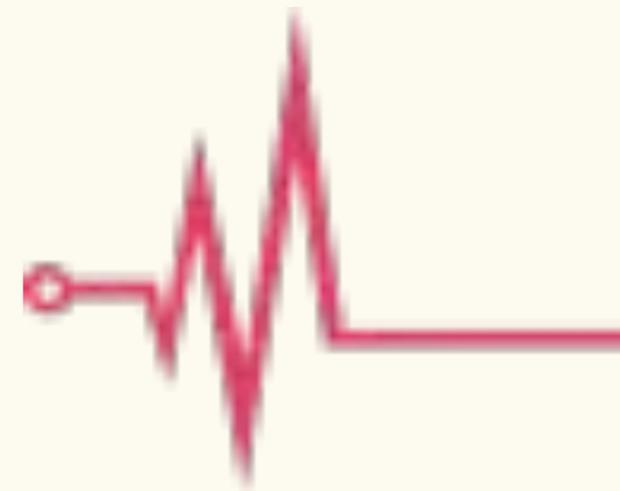
- **Overview of OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (29 CFR 1910.1030):** This standard mandates measures to protect workers from occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens.
- **Purpose and scope:** The standard aims to minimize the risk of transmission of bloodborne diseases in workplaces, including schools.
- **Employer responsibilities:** Employers are required to provide training to employees, and offer appropriate protective equipment.



Common Risks in School Settings



- **Sources of exposure:** Examples include blood spills in science labs, injuries on the playground, or assisting students with medical needs.
- **Potential occupations at risk:** School nurses, custodians, recess supervisors, student support personnel, and teachers are among those who may encounter bloodborne pathogens in their work.
- **Importance of universal precautions:** All school employees should treat all blood and bodily fluids as if they are infectious, regardless of the perceived risk.



Health Effects of Bloodborne Pathogens



- **Short-term and long-term consequences:** Contracting diseases such as HIV, HBV, or HCV can lead to serious health issues, including liver damage, immune system suppression, and even death.
- **Risk of transmission through exposure:** Even a small amount of infected blood or bodily fluid can pose a significant risk of transmission if proper precautions are not taken.
- **Importance of prompt action and treatment:** Early intervention, such as post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for HIV, can significantly reduce the risk of infection after exposure.



Prevention Strategies



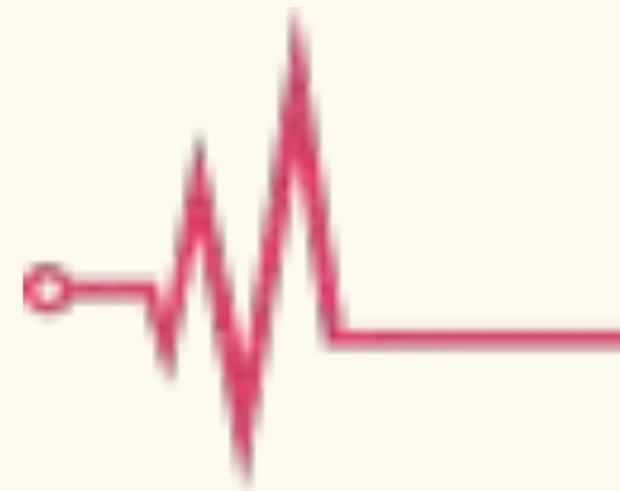
- **Universal precautions:** Always wear gloves, goggles, and other personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling blood or bodily fluids.
- **Proper handling and disposal of sharps:** Use puncture-resistant containers for disposal of needles, scalpels, and other sharps to prevent accidental injuries.
- **Use of personal protective equipment (PPE):** Examples include gloves, face shields, masks, and gowns, depending on the task and level of risk.
- **Hand hygiene practices:** Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after any potential exposure to blood or bodily fluids.



Response to Exposure Incidents



- **Steps to take if exposed to blood or bodily fluids:** Immediately wash the exposed area with soap and water, flush mucous membranes with water, and seek medical evaluation.
- **Importance of reporting incidents promptly:** Reporting exposures allows for timely follow-up and access to necessary medical interventions.
- **Post-exposure evaluation and follow-up procedures:** Depending on the nature of the exposure, employees may require testing, counseling, or prophylactic treatment.



Conclusion



- **Recap of key points:** Understanding the risks of bloodborne pathogens and implementing effective prevention strategies are essential for protecting the health and safety of school employees.
- **Encouragement for proactive approach to safety:** By staying informed, following proper procedures, and supporting each other, we can create a safer work environment for everyone.

References

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