
PROGRAM OUTLINE

Introduction

This section explains the dangers you face from bloodborne pathogens and what information is available to help protect you.

Key Points:

- OSHA's standard on bloodborne pathogens requires your employer to have a written Exposure Control Plan, which incorporates the Center for Disease Control's guidelines specific to law enforcement personnel.
- You are also protected by the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act.

Bloodborne Diseases

This section explains that you should be most concerned about HIV infection, hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

Key Points:

- HIV attacks the body's immune system and destroys the ability to fight infection.
- There's no effective vaccine to prevent AIDS and no known cure.
- Hepatitis B, a disease that affects the liver, poses a greater risk to you than HIV infection.
- There is a vaccine available to protect you from hepatitis B virus.
- Hepatitis C virus also affects the liver, but most victims show no symptoms and most develop long term chronic liver disease.
- There's no protective vaccine for hepatitis C.
- These infections are spread through contact with blood, semen, vaginal secretions, sexual contact, and other body fluids or tissues that contain visible blood.
- Fluids such as sweat, tears, saliva, urine, stool, vomitus, nasal secretions and sputum have not been shown to transmit bloodborne diseases.
- To become infected, a large enough dose of the live virus must enter your bloodstream and overcome your body's defense system.

Discussion Topic:

- Discuss ways you could be exposed to infections in your work setting.

How to Avoid Infection

This section of the program explains some of the information found in your employer's Exposure Control Plan.

Key Points:

- Protect yourself from hepatitis B by receiving the vaccine series.
- Treat all blood and body fluids as if they're infected with bloodborne or other pathogens.

Discussion Topics:

- Explain your department's procedures for vaccination.
 - Discuss the importance of considering all body fluids as if they were contaminated.
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Personnel Protective Equipment

This section discusses some of the PPE you may need to use.

Key Points:

- Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to provide a barrier against contact with bloodborne diseases.
- The most common type of PPE includes single-use, disposable gloves, masks, eye protection, gowns or overalls, and resuscitation devices.

Discussion Topics:

- Discuss what PPE you may commonly need on the job, when you may need the items and how to use them properly.
- Demonstrate and discuss the proper way to remove gloves.

Work Controls

This section discusses some safe practices you should follow.

Key Points:

- Use common sense to conduct your daily duties in a safe manner.
- Proper handwashing is your number one protection against infection and keeps you from infecting others.

Discussion Topics:

- Discuss safe search procedures.
- Discuss how to collect evidence safely.
- Demonstrate and discuss proper handwashing techniques.

Housekeeping

This section covers the safety factor behind good housekeeping.

Key Points:

- All equipment and environmental surfaces must be decontaminated as soon as possible after contact with blood or other potentially infectious material.
- Dispose of garbage contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious material according to regulations listed in the Exposure Control Plan.

Discussion Topic:

- Discuss what's meant by 'proper housekeeping' in your line of work.

If You Are Exposed

This section discusses what steps you should take if you are exposed to potentially infectious material when you're without PPE.

Key Points:

- Wash exposed skin with soap and water, or waterless hand-wash solution until water is available.
- Flush eyes and exposed mucous membranes with large amounts of water.
- Report the incident to your Designated Officer, giving as many details as possible about the type and source of exposure.

Discussion Topics:

- Discuss what you should do if you experience extensive skin exposure.
- Discuss what the role of the Designated Officer is.

Session Summary

Summarize the key points from the Program Outline.

Ask for questions.

Administer the Quiz, provided this is not a violation of your facility's labor policies.

Review the quiz.

Dismiss the employees back to work and thank them for their attention.