By the Numbers: Bloodborne Pathogens



DID YOU KNOW?

Q: What are bloodborne pathogens?

A: Infectious microorganisms in human blood that can cause diseases in humans.

There is a staggering statistic about injuries with bloodborne pathogens. Roughly 3 million **occupational injuries** occur every year.

The major blood pathogens are:

- Hepatitis B (HBV)
- Incubation period is 45 to 160 days.
- Hepatitis C (HCV)
- Incubation period is 14 to 180 days.
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- Incubation period ranges from a few months to 10 years or more.

KEEP IN MIND

Bloodborne pathogens can be transmitted through blood and other bodily fluids through:

- Ingestion
- Sexual contact
- Use of dirty needles
- Direct blood to blood contact
- Contact with mucous membranes
- Open cuts and sores

Prevention of Bloodborne Pathogens

- Take **Universal Precautions** and **treat** all blood, bodily fluids, and any other objects as if they are infected.

Engineering Controls:

- Sharps containers for disposing of used needles
- Mechanical devices to pick up contaminated items
- Self-capping syringes

Administrative Controls:

- Proper housekeeping, sanitation, and disposal procedures
- Clearly labeling sharps container
- Not eating, drinking, or applying makeup in work areas

PPE (Last Line of Defense)

- Disposable gloves
- Safety glasses and face shields
- Protective coverings (i.e mask)
- Ventilation barriers

REPORT EXPOSURE IMMEDIATELY