



BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – HAZARDS

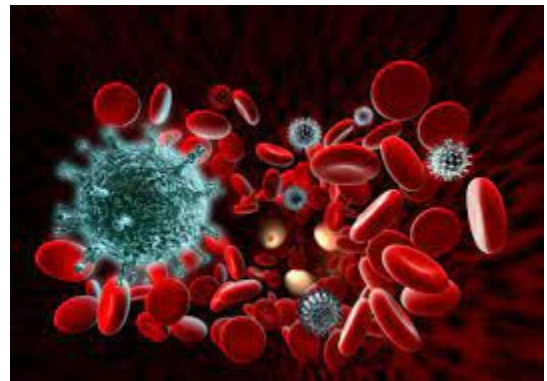
June 2023

Bloodborne pathogens are microorganisms that can cause diseases and infections transmitted through blood or other potentially infectious materials. It is crucial to be aware of the risks associated with exposure and to take appropriate measures to protect ourselves and others from these hazards.

Key Points to Cover:

1. Understanding Bloodborne Pathogens:

- Bloodborne pathogens include viruses such as HIV, Hepatitis B (HBV), and Hepatitis C (HCV).
- They can be present in blood, semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, and other bodily fluids.
- These pathogens can enter the body through cuts, puncture wounds, splashes to mucous membranes, or contact with contaminated items.



2. Know Your Workplace:

- Identify tasks and job roles that may involve potential exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials.
- Understand the specific procedures and protocols established by the Town of Perinton for handling bloodborne pathogens.
- Review the Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan and seek clarification if you have any questions.



3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Utilize appropriate PPE, such as gloves, goggles, face shields, and protective clothing, when there is a risk of exposure.
- Ensure that PPE is readily available, properly fitted, and in good condition.
- Dispose of used PPE in designated biohazard containers and replace as needed.



4. Safe Work Practices:

- Avoid eating, drinking, or applying cosmetics in areas where blood or potentially infectious materials are present.
- Do not handle needles or other sharps without proper training and precautions. Report found sharps to Safety and Security.
- Take precautions to prevent injuries, such as using safe needle disposal techniques and proper sharps containers.

5. Hand Hygiene:

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling potentially infectious materials, removing gloves, or completing tasks.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

6. Spill Cleanup:

- Follow appropriate procedures for cleaning up spills of blood or other potentially infectious materials.
- Use absorbent materials, such as paper towels or spill kits, to contain and clean up spills promptly.
- Wear appropriate PPE during spill cleanup and dispose of contaminated materials properly.



7. Reporting and Vaccination:

- Report any incidents of exposure or potential exposure to bloodborne pathogens to your supervisor immediately.
- Ensure that you are up to date with vaccinations for Hepatitis B and any other relevant immunizations.
- Familiarize yourself with the post-exposure evaluation and follow-up procedures provided by the Town of Perinton.



By understanding the risks associated with bloodborne pathogens and implementing appropriate safety measures, we can protect ourselves and others from potential infections and diseases. Always use personal protective equipment, practice proper hand hygiene, and follow established procedures for handling and disposing of potentially infectious materials. By working together to maintain a safe and healthy work environment, we can prevent the spread of bloodborne pathogens. Stay safe!