

# Bloodborne Pathogens

Analyze • Inform • Motivate

**B**loodborne pathogens are infectious microorganisms, either virus or bacteria, that causes diseases in humans.

## What are most common blood-borne diseases?

- Hepatitis B (HBV)
- Hepatitis C (HCV)
- HIV which causes AIDS

## How do you get infected?

Bloodborne diseases are spread by exposure to:

- Infected blood
- Infected body fluids, including semen, vaginal secretions and in some cases, saliva. (\*Sweat, tears, and urine do not carry the Bloodborne pathogens.)

## Facts regarding bloodborne diseases:

- The Hepatitis B is more infectious than HIV.
- The Hepatitis B virus can survive on surfaces such as metal, cotton, glass, etc. for 1-2 weeks.
- 99.7% of needle stick/cut ex-

posures do not result in HIV infection as the HIV virus is very fragile and will not survive very long outside of the human body.

- An individual infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C who may not show signs of illness right away is still infectious!



- There is a Hepatitis B vaccine, but no Hepatitis C or HIV vaccines.
- Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C affect the liver, while HIV affects the body's immune system.

## How can you protect yourself from bloodborne diseases?

When you perform tasks that might bring you into contact with blood (or body fluids), you are

recommended to use *Universal Precautions*, an approach to treat all body fluids as potentially infectious materials, and adequate protective equipment and barriers, including latex gloves, masks, eye protection, resuscitation bags, etc. Proper use of protective equipment and barriers can significantly reduce the health risks for exposed workers.

## What if blood gets on your skin?

If your skin is healthy and unbroken (no cuts or cracks), just wash with soap and water. Your skin will protect you from

these diseases.

## What if blood gets in a cut or in your eyes, nose or mouth?

Notify your supervisor immediately and seek medical treatment. There are medical interventions that can protect you from Hepatitis B and some other diseases. You will receive testing and care. If you take adequate precautions, the chance that you will be infected is very small.



**Chad Lindsey**  
*Risk Consulting  
Manager*



**Jason Popejoy**  
*Risk Consulting  
Consultant*

**P:** (808) 951-1772

**E:** [rsc@dtric.com](mailto:rsc@dtric.com)

## About DTRIC Insurance Risk Consulting Services

The Risk Consulting Services team at DTRIC Insurance is designed to help you reduce accidents and injuries in the workplace. Our approach involves our proven **A.I.M.** process that is easy to understand and simple to implement.



### **ANALYZE**

We start by helping you understand and assess your current situation with services including:

- Safety audits
- Property and liability hazard surveys
- Accident investigation training
- Graphical analysis
- Job hazard analysis

### **INFORM**

Keeping your team members informed is essential to success. We'll help you:

- Develop a safety committee
- Provide educational resources
- Work with your management team to develop their skills and knowledge of regulations
- Address loss trends with training on key issues
- Open communications within your organization

### **MOTIVATE**

The more safety is promoted in your workplace, the more motivated your team members will be to make safety a top priority. Whether you motivate with promotions, incentives or recognition, we'll help you develop a results-driven method to encourage safety at all times.

DTRIC's Risk Consulting Services team will work closely with you to create a program to effectively improve your bottom line.