

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

Are You Protected?

Bloodborne pathogens — germs present in human blood and other bodily fluids — can spread serious diseases including hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV. No employer wants to see staff fall victim to these illnesses. And, when people miss work due to symptoms or to receive treatment, the business loses productivity. The CDC estimates that 5.6 million workers in the healthcare industry and related occupations are at risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens in the course of their work.¹

Although healthcare workers are the most likely to be exposed, employees in other industries are also at risk including custodians, public safety workers, and law enforcement officers. Even in an office, retail or restaurant environment, any workplace accidents that expose other employees to blood or bodily fluids can be dangerous.

DID YOU KNOW?

Developing procedures to protect employees from exposure to bloodborne pathogens can decrease the chance that workers will become infected during the course of performing their job duties. By implementing engineering and work practice controls, developing a plan for handling accidental exposure, and providing ongoing training for employees, you can keep your workplace safe.

OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens standard specifies regulations employers must follow if employees are likely to be exposed to bloodborne pathogens at work.

STEPS TO LIMIT EXPOSURE TO BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS IN THE WORKPLACE

- Identify employees whose jobs may put them at risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens. Pinpoint the situations in which exposure is most likely to occur in your workplace.
- Develop methods of eliminating or reducing the likelihood of workplace exposure to bloodborne pathogens. These may include implementing safer devices, adjusting work practices or providing employees with personal protective equipment such as gloves, gowns, or eye protection.
- Train employees in proper practices to prevent exposure to bloodborne pathogens. Provide refresher training annually, or whenever changes to job roles or procedures affect an employee's occupational exposure.
- Develop an Exposure Control Plan and share it with your staff. Ensure employees understand the importance of reporting exposure so you can take proper decontamination and treatment measures if an incident occurs.



One case of infection by bloodborne pathogens can **potentially cost \$1 million** for testing, follow-up and disability payments.²

¹ "Bloodborne Pathogens and Needlestick Prevention." OSHA, 2011.

² "Bloodborne Pathogens and Needlestick Prevention." OSHA, 2011.

HOW DO BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS IN YOUR WORKPLACE AFFECT THE BOTTOM LINE?

- Developing a plan for protecting employees from exposure to bloodborne pathogens can reduce absenteeism due to illness.
- Educating employees about proper protocol around bloodborne pathogens can help protect your business from excessive healthcare expenses and costly workers' compensation claims.
- Exposure to bloodborne pathogens causes stress and emotional upset. Providing a safe workplace improves employee satisfaction and morale.

Skillsoft Global Compliance Solutions delivers online training in bloodborne pathogen standards to meet the needs of organizations looking to build awareness around the risks bloodborne pathogens can pose. Our customization package includes options to provide your bloodborne pathogens exposure control plan as well as your organization's qualified trainer contact information.

Check out Skillsoft's "[Bloodborne Pathogens Awareness 2.0](#)" compliance courses today, and learn how we can partner with your organization to build a safer, healthier work environment for your employees.

[VISIT SKILLSOFT.COM/COMPLIANCE-LEADERS](https://www.skillsoft.com/compliance-leaders)



It is estimated that **1.3 million people die every year** from unsafe/accidental needle sticks, globally.³



³ "Accidental Needsticks: The Silent Killer." Karen Daley, Physician's Weekly, September 11, 2018.