

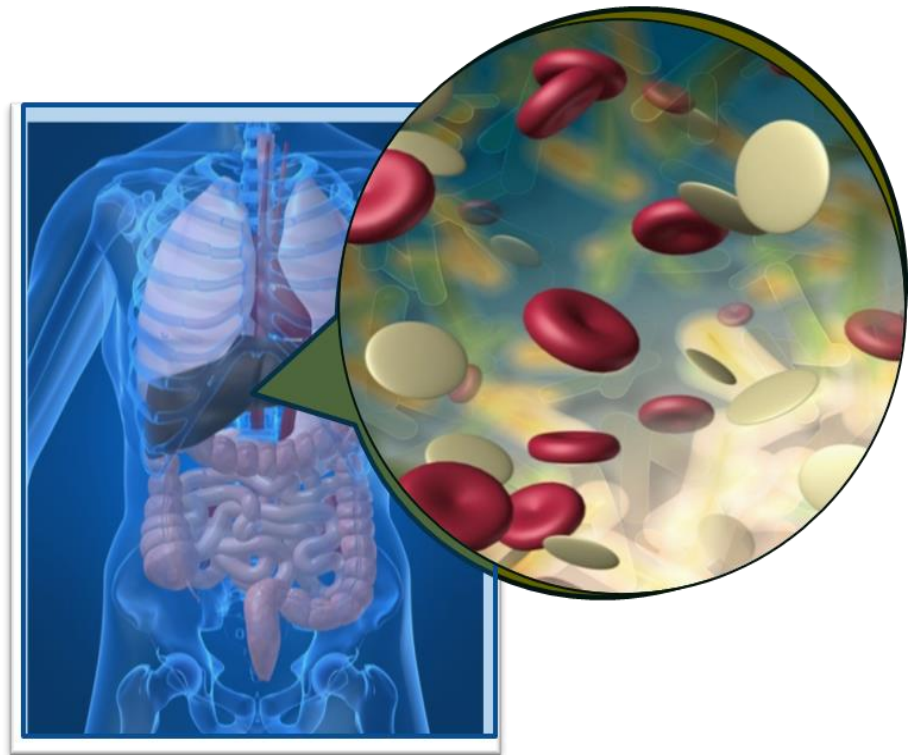
# Bloodborne Pathogens



RETAIL  
ASSOCIATION  
SERVICES Inc.

# What are Blood-borne Pathogens?

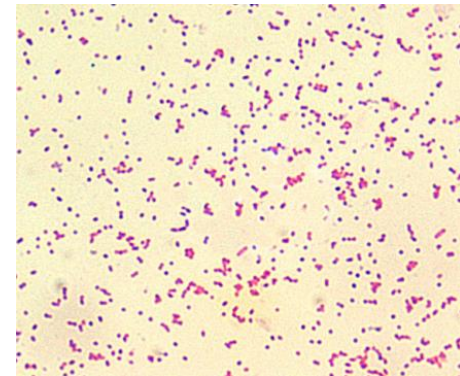
Blood-borne infections are caused by germs that are spread through contact with an infected person's blood. Blood-borne infections include hepatitis B, hepatitis C and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Other Potentially Infectious Materials, (OPIM), are contaminated items that the infected person touched or is wearing.



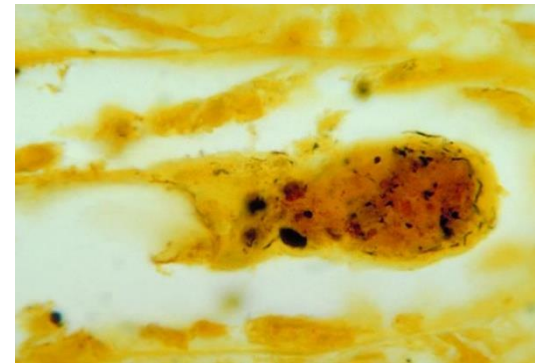
# Lesser known Blood-borne Pathogens

These BBP's include:

- Syphilis
- Babesiosis
- Brucellosis
- Leptospirosis
- Arboviral infections
- Relapsing fever
- Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease
- Human T-lymphotrophic virus Type I
- Viral Hemorrhagic Fever



Brucellosis bacteria



Leptospira bacteria in kidney tissue

# How do Bloodborne Pathogens enter the body?

## **Break in skin integrity**

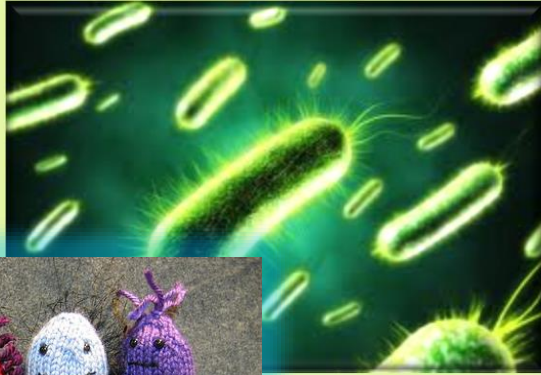
- Needle sticks
- Cuts, scrapes and breaks in skin

## **Mucous Membranes**

- Splashes to eyes, nose and mouth
- Life style issues (IV drug use)

These viruses attack the liver causing inflammation, enlargement, and tenderness. Infections can be acute or chronic. Damage can range from mild to fatal.

# Some can be treated?



Although all these infections are serious, treatment is available if testing shows that you are infected. What is important though is to prevent any infections in the first place.

# Risk of Infection

From a contaminated sharps injury

**HIV** → 0.3% (1 in 300)

HBV vaccine is 90% effective

**Hep C** → 1.8% (5.4 in 300)

No known vaccine or cure

**Hep B** → 23-62% (69-186 in 300)

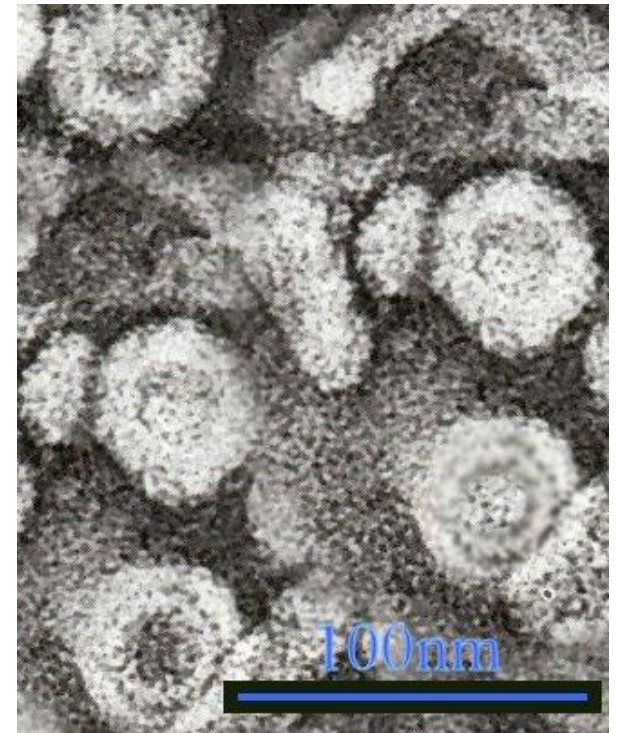
HBV vaccine is 90% effective

Preventing sharps injuries is the best way to  
protect yourself from infection!



# The Hepatitis B Virus - HBV

- Can live for 7+ days in dried blood
- 100 times more contagious than HIV
- 46,000 new infections per year
- 1.25 million carriers
- 3,000 deaths/year
- No cure, but there is a preventative vaccine



# Hepatitis B symptoms

- Flu-like symptoms
- Fatigue
- Abdominal pain
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea, vomiting
- Joint pain
- Jaundice





# Hepatitis C symptoms

- Flu-like symptoms
- Jaundice
- Fatigue
- Dark urine
- Abdominal pain
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea



- The most common chronic blood-borne infection in the U.S.
- 12,000 deaths from HCV infections each year
- No vaccine currently available

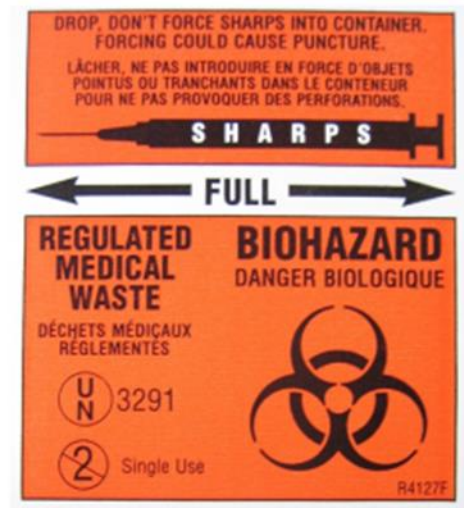
# Who is covered by the rule?

- “Occupational Exposure” means *reasonably anticipated* skin, eye, mucous membrane, or piercing of the skin, contact with blood or OPIM that may result from the performance of an employee's duties.
- “Exposure Incident” means an *actual* eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, non-intact skin or skin piercing contact with blood or OPIM while performing your work duties.
- “Good Samaritan” acts such as assisting a co-worker with a nosebleed would not be considered occupational exposure.

# Needle/Sharps Disposal

Sharps disposal containers must be:

- Closable
- Puncture-resistant
- Leak-proof
- Labeled or color-coded
- Upright, conveniently placed in area where sharps are used



# How to handle needles



Wear gloves and use any pinching type tool when picking up syringes, needles or other sharps.



# Cleaning Contaminated Surfaces

All work surfaces and equipment contaminated with blood or OPIM must be cleaned up with an appropriate disinfectant as soon as possible or according to your written schedule.





- Use paper/absorbent towels to soak up the spilled materials and put in bag.
- Clean the area with 10% bleach or EPA-registered disinfectant.
- Saturate the spill area with disinfectant. Leave for 10 minutes (or as specified by product manufacturer) or allow to air dry.
- Properly dispose of paper towels and cleaning materials into proper waste containers (red bio bags or mark bag as bio hazard).





# Use PPE for protection

You must wear all required PPE. You will be provided with all necessary PPE at no cost including one or more of the following;

- Eye gear – Helps to prevent possible splashes to the eyes. When finished, clean as if it were a contaminated surface, dry and store for next use.
- Gloves – Dispose of initial gloves into bio hazard bag. Put on a new pair of gloves. Dispose of the bio bag in a manner that will not expose you or other employees.
- Face Mask – If you feel that you need a face mask, that will also be available.



# Here is a short video on BBP

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aaP-g3PVoY8&t=1s>

# Here is a short video on how to safely remove gloves

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=av6-e7aZHIQ>

# If you have an exposure...

Immediately do the following:

- Thoroughly clean the affected area.
- Wash needle sticks, cuts, and skin with soap and water.
- Flush splashes to the nose and mouth with water.
- Irrigate eyes with clean water, saline, or sterile irrigation.
- Report exposure to your supervisor, or the person responsible for managing exposures.



# Think you have been exposed?

A post-exposure medical evaluation and follow-up to for you:

- at no cost
- confidential
- to include testing for HBV, HCV, HIV
- preventive treatment when indicated

**HIV** - treatment using current methods

**HCV** – no known treatment

**HBV** - 3 shots; 0, 1, & 6 months. Effective for 95% of adults. If you decline, you must sign a “Declination Form”. Vaccine can still be available at later date if desired.

# Use caution...

If you are not sure where the sharp, blood spill or other substance came from, error on the side that it contains BBP and get your PPE on.

If you have any questions about BBP, contact your supervisor for direction.



# What are Universal Precautions?

- a) What everybody does with blood-borne pathogens
- b) Protective methods used throughout the world
- c) Treating all blood as if it is contaminated with BBP
- d) Methods used to treat someone with Hepatitis C



# Which of the following infections can be prevented with a vaccine?

- a) HIV
- b) Hepatitis A
- c) Hepatitis B
- d) Hepatitis C

# Which of the following is not considered OPIM?

- a) Blood
- b) Tears
- c) Body fluids containing blood
- d) Semen

# When does a face shield have to be worn?

- a) When handling blood sample vials
- b) When there is a risk of splash to the eyes
- c) In a medical laboratory setting
- d) Around patients known to be HIV positive

# When is a post-exposure medical evaluation required?

- a) Whenever you have a needle stick
- b) After having the hepatitis B vaccination
- c) Whenever you have to pick up contaminated syringes
- d) After you handle blood-contaminated laundry