Bloodborne Pathogens Overview

The information in this document will give you an overview of bloodborne pathogens (BBPs), what you should do to prevent exposure, and what actions to take in the event of exposure. Please sign below attesting that you have read and understand this information.

Overview

Bloodborne pathogens can be transmitted when infectious blood or OPIM is introduced into the bloodstream of a person. Transmission of bloodborne pathogens in the workplace can occur through the following routes of transmission:

- Needlesticks/sharps injuries
- Splashes to the mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth) or to non-intact skin.

There are several diseases that are caused by bloodborne pathogens. A few BBPs are fairly common and present a risk to you if you come in direct contact with other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) such as human blood and certain body fluids. The three that are most common are HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C. There are no vaccines for HIV or Hepatitis C, but there is a vaccine for Hepatitis B. This is a series of 3 shots that is given at the initial clinic visit, a month later, and then 6 months later.

HOW TO PREVENT EXPOSURE TO BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

1. Practice Standard Precautions: consider all patients and body fluids/blood to be infectious.

2. Use and activate approved safety sharps.

3. Dispose of all sharps into an approved sharps container.

4. Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)!! Gloves and eye/face protection (safety glasses, goggles, face shields).

5. Dispose of all contaminated items into approved medical/infectious waste containers.

6. In Maryland, unless gloves or other non-sharp items are incapable of releasing liquid or dried when compressed, they can be disposed of in standard trash containers. When in doubt, dispose of in a red trash bag.

7. Remove PPE before leaving the work area. This includes gloves!!

8. If you are working in an area where there is a risk of exposure, you should never eat, drink, smoke, handle contact lenses, or apply makeup in that area.
9. Food and drink must be stored in separate areas from where blood and body fluids are present. This includes refrigerators.

10. Needles should never be recapped, broken, or sheared off.

11. If you have broken glassware, it should be swept up and placed into a sharps container. Do not directly pick it up with your hands.

12. Practice good hand hygiene!!

### WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF EXPOSURE

1. Wash the exposed site.

2. Call the 24-hour hotline 5-STIX (410-955-7849).

3. Inform your sponsoring supervisor(s).

4. **If recommended**, initiate Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) for possible HIV exposure **within 1 - 2 hours after exposure** for optimum efficacy.

5. Complete an incident report, and report to the injury clinic (Blalock 139 in Johns Hopkins Hospital).

### SIGNATURE

By signing below, I assert that I have read the Bloodborne Pathogens Overview for Student Observers and understand the risks associated within a hospital setting. I agree to take the recommended precautions to prevent contact with bloodborne pathogens and will follow the hospital’s protocol in the event of exposure.

_________________________  ______________________  ____________
Participant’s Name (please print)  Participant’s Signature  Date

Primary Supervisor’s Name: ________________________________

Department: ________________________________