



# Rutherford County Government

## Bloodborne Pathogens



# Why the need for Training?

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- ❖ Know ways of exposure
- ❖ How routes of transmission occur in your environment
- ❖ OSHA requires annual training



# Bloodborne Diseases

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- ❖ **Bloodborne pathogens** are microorganisms such as viruses or bacteria that are carried in blood that can cause disease in people
- ❖ Most common in the U.S.:
  - Hepatitis B (HBV)
  - Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
  - Hepatitis C (HCV)



# Hepatitis B Virus

*“inflammation of the liver”*

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- ❖ Hepatitis B is very durable
- ❖ **Can survive in dried blood for up to 7 days**
- ❖ 1.25 million Americans are chronically infected with HBV
- ❖ For employees with risk of exposure, a vaccine is available



# Hepatitis B Virus

*“inflammation of the liver”*

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## Symptoms of *HBV*:

- Much like the mild flu
- Fatigue, possible stomach pain, loss of appetite & nausea
- People who are infected will often show *NO* symptoms
- Symptoms can occur as early as 2 weeks or take as long as 6-9 months



# HIV

*“virus that leads to AIDS”*

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- ❖ HIV attacks the body's immune system
- ❖ Weakening the system to the point it cannot fight diseases
- ❖ Once infected, it may take years before AIDS actually develops
- ❖ AIDS is fatal and there is no known cure



# HIV

*“virus that leads to AIDS”*

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Symptoms of **HIV** can vary but often include:

- Weakness, fever, sore throat
- Nausea, headaches, diarrhea
- White coating on the tongue & swollen lymph glands
- Weight loss



## *Hepatitis C Virus* *“inflammation of the liver”*

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- ❖ **Hepatitis C** is the most common chronic bloodborne infection in the U.S.
- ❖ Most often transmitted through large or repeated exposure to infected blood
- ❖ Symptoms typically develop 4-12 weeks
- ❖ There is no vaccine for **HCV**



# Myths about BBP

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You *cannot catch* HIV, HBV or HCV:

- Through the air (like a cold or the flu)
- Through casual, everyday contact (sharing a restroom, kitchen, etc.)
- Through nonsexual social situations
- Through insects or mosquitoes
- Through urine, feces, nasal secretions, saliva, vomitus, sweat or tears from an infected person

*(there must be the presence of blood)*

❖ Although, a bite that breaks the skin has been known to transmit HBV



# Ways to be exposed to a BBP

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Infected Blood can enter your system through:

- Open Sores
- Cuts
- Abrasions
- Acne
- Any sort of damaged or broken skin

BBPs may also be transmitted through the  
mucous

membranes of the:

- Eyes



# How does this apply to YOU?

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- ❖ Most of us have a minimal risk of exposure to a BBP
- ❖ However, the training is intended to educate you on how to protect & react if you were faced with a first aid or potential exposure situation

*For these next example situations, you need to know how to protect yourself against a BBP.*



# How would YOU Protect Yourself?

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## Some Examples:

- ❖ A customer begins having a nose bleed and you have to assist in some way?
- ❖ An employee in your department slips and falls and is bleeding?
- ❖ What if you're the one cleaning up an area where a BBP exposure occurred?



# Now What?

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**“Universal Precautions”** must be taken!

- ✓ Personal Protective Equipment
- ✓ First Aid Kit
  
- ❖ Treat blood and other potentially infectious material as if they are, in fact, infectious, regardless of the perceived status of the source of the individual
  
- ❖ In other words, whether or not you think the blood/body fluid is infected with bloodborne pathogens, *you treat it as if it is*



# Personal Protective Equipment!

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- ❖ The *FIRST* thing to do in any situation is wear the proper personal protective equipment, such as gloves
- ❖ To protect yourself, it is essential to have a barrier between you and the potentially infectious material

## Rules to Follow:

- ✓ Always wear PPE in exposure situations
- ✓ Remove PPE that is torn or punctured, or has lost its ability to function as a proper barrier
- ✓ Replace PPE that is torn or punctured
- ✓ Remove your PPE in designated area before leaving the work area



# First Aid Kits!

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## Where is your office First Aid Kit?

- ❖ To be prepared, you and your employees need to know where your first aid kit is located.
  - ❖ It should be kept in a well known & easily accessible place within the office.
  - ❖ Each employee must be trained on location and supplies within the First Aid Kit, including new hires
- (For kit information, please see contact information at end)



# Handwashing

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- ❖ The *single most important* (and easiest) practice to prevent transmission of bloodborne pathogens
- ❖ Hands should be washed immediately (or as soon as feasible) after removal of gloves or other PPE
- ❖ Use soft, antibacterial soap; if working without facilities, use antiseptic cleanser with a clean paper/cloth. However, hands should be washed with soap as soon as possible.
- ❖ Avoid harsh, abrasive soaps, as these may open fragile scabs or other sores



# Clean Up & Decontamination

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## Appropriate disinfectant:

- A solution of household bleach, diluted 1:10-1:100; made fresh
- Lysol or some other EPA-registered tuberculocidal disinfectant

(you need to check the label to ensure this requirement)

- ❖ Of course, any materials used to clean up a spill of blood or potentially infectious materials must be decontaminated immediately, as well. This includes re-usable gloves, mops, sponges, buckets, pails, etc.



# Disposal

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- ❖ For Disposal or Clean-up information/instruction, always contact the Maintenance Department
  
- ❖ If Maintenance Department is unavailable, please use “universal precautions” and label bags and containers appropriately for others



# What if you're Exposed?

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## You should always:

1. Wash the exposed area thoroughly with soap and running water. Use non-abrasive, antibacterial soap if possible.
  - a. If blood is splashed in the eyes or mucous membranes, flush affected area with running water for at least 15 minutes.*
2. Report the exposure to your supervisor immediately
3. Complete OJI Report Forms as required. Forms are available from your supervisor.
4. Follow-up will be done by County Safety Coordinator



# Hep B Vaccine

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- ❖ Employees with a *routine* exposure to bloodborne pathogens, shall be offered the Hep B vaccine at no cost to them
- ❖ Vaccination is a three-shot series
- ❖ Employees who do not wish to take the vaccine, must sign a declination statement; if you decline now, you can decide later to take the shots

*For questions about the Hep B vaccine, please see Dan Goode, Safety Coordinator*



# Safety Training Contact

For answers to questions, interactive discussion or other information related to *Bloodborne Pathogens*, please contact:

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