

Negative Bloodborne Pathogens

Stop and think — do not expose yourself to bloodborne pathogens! Knowing what *not* to do is just as important as knowing what *to* do. If you have not received bloodborne pathogens training from your employer, do *not* render first aid or perform any type of cleanup of blood or body fluids containing bloodborne pathogens!

Bloodborne Pathogens

- ◆ Are viruses, bacteria, and parasites present in the infected individual's blood or other body fluids
- ◆ Intimate contact with blood or other body fluids containing bloodborne pathogens can result in the spread of:
 - HIV/AIDS
 - Hepatitis B
 - Other infections, including Hepatitis C

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

- ◆ The virus that causes the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) by attacking the individual's immune system
- ◆ Transmission of HIV:
 - Oral, anal, or vaginal sex with an infected person
 - Sharing contaminated needles
 - Receiving contaminated blood or blood products
 - Infected mothers can pass the virus on to their babies during pregnancy or birth

Hepatitis

- ◆ An infection or inflammation of the liver
- ◆ Caused by infection, overuse of alcoholic beverages, exposure to toxic chemicals, or reaction to medication
- ◆ Transmission of HBV (Hepatitis B Virus):
 - Exposure to mucous membranes, to blood or blood products, saliva, semen, and vaginal fluids
 - Exposure to blood or blood products during intravenous drug use, intramuscular drug use, accidental needle stick injury, trauma splash, tattooing and ear/body piercing equipment, sharing of toothbrushes or razors
 - Childbirth

Negative Bloodborne Pathogens *(continued)*

Preventing a Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure

- ◆ Develop a mindset that all blood and body fluids should be treated as if they were infected
- ◆ Follow the American Red Cross First Aid Steps:
 - Check to make sure the scene is safe for you to enter
 - Determine the number of victims
 - Do not move a seriously injured person
 - Determine if the victim is conscious
 - Unconsciousness is life threatening; call for medical help at once
 - Render care only if you have been trained in first aid and bloodborne pathogens

Protecting Yourself

- ◆ Universal precautions
 - A standard approach designed to prevent contact with all human blood and certain body fluids known to contain HIV, Hepatitis B, or other bloodborne pathogens
- ◆ Use universal precautions with potentially infectious material:
 - Blood
 - Semen
 - Vaginal secretions
 - Cerebrospinal fluid (fluid protecting the brain and spine)
 - Synovial fluid (fluid from the joints)
 - Pleural fluid (fluid from the lungs)
 - Any body fluid with visible blood
 - Any unidentifiable body fluid
 - Saliva from dental procedures
- ◆ Universal precautions are *not* required unless the body fluid or secretion contains visible blood
 - Feces
 - Nasal secretions
 - Sputum (fluid from coughing or clearing the throat)
 - Sweat
 - Tears
 - Urine
 - Vomit

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