

# Infection Preventionist Lunch and Learn

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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
*of* HEALTH SERVICES

# Series Objectives

- Encourage learning, growth, and networking
- Provide non-regulatory education and information
- Discuss topics relevant to new infection preventionists (IPs)

# Bloodborne Pathogens Refresher



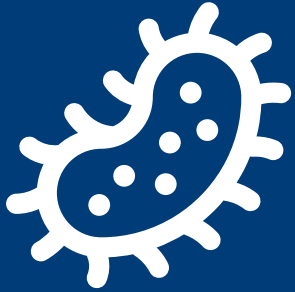
# Today's Discussion

- Define bloodborne pathogens and significant exposures.
- Outline ways to prevent significant exposures and how to follow up if they happen.
- Briefly review the bloodborne pathogens standard.

# Bloodborne Pathogens (BBPs)



# What are BBPs?



Microorganisms found in blood and other bodily fluids including:

- Hepatitis B.
- Hepatitis C.
- HIV.

# Significant Exposures



# Significant Exposure

Exposures occur through:

- Needlesticks.
- Percutaneous sharps injuries.
- Splashes or sprays of blood or other potentially infectious material (OPIM) to eyes, mouth, or nose.
- Contact of blood or OPIM to non-intact skin.

# Post Exposure Steps



# Immediate First Aid Care

- **Needlesticks, punctures, or cuts:**
  - Wash the area with soap and water
  - Do not squeeze
- **Splashes to the mouth, nose, eyes, on non-intact skin:**
  - Rinse with water

# Post Exposure Steps



# Post Exposure Steps

Provide  
immediate first  
aid care.



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graph LR; A[Provide immediate first aid care.] --> B[Notify a supervisor.]; B --> C[Seek medical care to determine the risk involved with the exposure.];
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Notify a  
supervisor.

Seek medical  
care to  
determine the  
risk involved  
with the  
exposure.

# Post-Exposure Testing

- If the source patient is known, testing for bloodborne pathogens may be an option.
- In some cases, post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) may be warranted.
- Follow-up should occur as soon as possible as some PEP must be given within hours of exposure.

# Preventing Significant Exposures



- **Wear** appropriate personal protective equipment based on anticipated risk.
- **Utilize** safe sharps devices.
- **Implement** work practice controls.

# Bloodborne Pathogens Standard



# Bloodborne Pathogens Standard

- Set forth by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).
- Designed to protect workers from health hazards in blood and OPIM.

## Provisions Include:

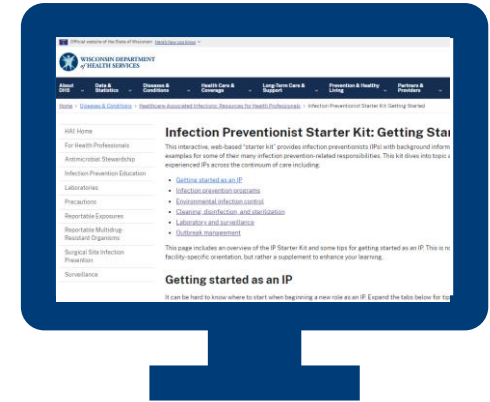
- Engineering and work practice controls
- Hepatitis B vaccination
- Hazard communication
- Training
- Exposure control plans

# Resources

- DHS, [Reportable Exposures](#)
- CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), [Bloodborne Infectious Disease Risk Factors Webpage](#)
- OSHA, [BBP Fact Sheet](#)

# IP Starter Kit

- Interactive, web-based [resource](#)
- Background information, resources, and templates
- Covers topics applicable to IPs across care settings



# HAI Prevention Program Contact Information



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**Phone:** 608-267-7711



**Website:** [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hai/contacts.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hai/contacts.htm)

# Send your questions and topic suggestions.

Submit your ideas to Ashley O'Keefe at [ashley.okeefe@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:ashley.okeefe@dhs.wisconsin.gov).



# Upcoming Lunch and Learn Session

**Date: Tuesday, November 11, 2025**

**Topic: Surgical Site Infections**