

Blood Borne Pathogens Glossary

A

AIDS: Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, a disease that results from HIV.

ANOREXIA: Loss of appetite.

ANTIGEN: A substance that causes antibody formation.

B

BLOOD: The OSHA Standard refers to human blood, human blood components, and products made with human blood.

BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN: A pathogenic microorganism that is present in human blood and can cause disease in humans.

C

CONTAMINATED: The presence or the reasonably anticipated presence of blood or other potentially infectious materials on an item or surface.

CONTAMINATED LAUNDRY: Laundry that has been soiled with blood or other potentially infectious materials or may contain sharps.

CONTAMINATED SHARPS: Any contaminated object that can penetrate the skin including, but not limited to, needles, scalpels, broken capillary tubes, and exposed ends of dental wires.

D

DECONTAMINATION: The use of physical or chemical means to remove, inactivate, or destroy bloodborne pathogens on a surface or item to the point where they are no longer capable of transmitting infectious particles and the surface or item is rendered safe for handling, use, or disposal.

DE LEE SUCTIONING: An emergency method of clearing an infant's airway.

Safety Tips from the WorkSafe People

E

ENGINEERING CONTROLS: Physical controls (e.g., sharps disposal containers, self-sheathing needles, etc.) that isolate or remove the bloodborne pathogens hazard from the workplace.

EXPOSURE INCIDENT: A specific eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, non-intact skin, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that results from the performance of an employee's duties.

H

HANDWASHING FACILITY: A facility that provides an adequate supply of running potable water, soap, and single use towels or hot air drying machines.

HBV: Hepatitis B Virus. One of the viruses that causes illness directly affecting the liver. It is a bloodborne pathogen.

HEPATITIS: A disease that causes swelling, soreness, and loss of normal function of the liver. Symptoms include weakness, fatigue, anorexia, nausea, abdominal pain, fever, and headache. Jaundice is a symptom that may develop later.

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus is a virus that infects immune system blood cells in humans and renders them less effective in preventing disease.

I

IMMUNE: Resistant to infectious disease.

IMMUNIZATION: A process or procedure by which resistance to infectious disease is produced in a person.

J

JAUNDICE: A yellowing of the skin associated with hepatitis infection.

Safety Tips from the WorkSafe People

M

MUCOUS MEMBRANE: Any one of the four types of thin sheets of tissue that cover or line various parts of the body. An example would be the skin lining the nose and mouth.

MUCOUS: The clear secretion of the mucous membrane.

N

NON-INTACT SKIN: Skin that has a break in the surface. It includes but is not limited to abrasions, cuts, hangnails, paper cuts, and burns.

O

OCCUPATIONAL: Job related.

OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE: Reasonably anticipated skin, eye, mucous membrane, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from the performance of an employee's duties.

P

PARENTERAL: Piercing mucous membranes or the skin barrier through such events as needle sticks, human bites, cuts, and abrasion.

PATHOGEN: Any virus, microorganism, or other substance that is capable of causing disease.

PERCUTANEOUS: Performed through the skin as in draining fluid from an abscess using a needle.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT: Specialized clothing or equipment worn by an employee for protection against hazard.

Safety Tips from the WorkSafe People

S

SOURCE INDIVIDUAL: Any individual, living or dead, whose blood or other potentially infectious materials may be a source of occupational exposure to the employee.

STERILIZE: The use of a physical or chemical procedure to destroy all microbial life.

T

T₄: A cell in the immune system that acts as a sensor to activate the immune system.

U

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS: A comprehensive approach to infection control that treats all human blood and certain human body fluids as if known to be infectious for HIV, HBV, and other blood borne pathogens.

V

VACCINE: A suspension of inactive or killed microorganisms administered orally or injected into a human to induce active immunity to infectious disease.

Reference: National Safety Council, Bloodborne Pathogens, 1993.

