

**Bloodborne pathogens (BBP) are microorganisms or viruses, normally carried in infected blood and bodily fluids, that can cause diseases—some of which are fatal.** Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV are all BBP.

## BPP Transmission



Bloodborne pathogens must find a direct route of entry into the body for infection to be possible. Bodily fluids can also splash into the eyes and cause infection. Exchange of these body fluids must be direct; therefore, you cannot contract a bloodborne pathogen disease when an infected person touches you or sneezes/coughs on you.

## Bloodborne Pathogens Safety Tips

Contact with bloodborne pathogens can occur when co-workers attempt to assist an injured co-worker who is bleeding. Assisting the injured is a great thing to do, as long as it is done safely. Keep the following in mind when responding to an injury:

- If a co-worker has a minor accident that causes bleeding, try to have the victim bandage his or her own wound.
- If the injury is serious, call the emergency response team.
- If you don't have time to wait for the emergency response team, make sure you take universal precautions, meaning assume all blood or fluids contain infectious pathogens.
- Remember that vomit, burns, abrasions, external and internal injuries can release bodily fluids, which can also be potentially infectious
- When removing disposable gloves, roll the first glove off the hand inside out and place disposable gloves in an approved biohazard bag. Wash your hands immediately after removing any gloves.
- If you have been exposed to a victim's bodily fluid, wash the affected area thoroughly with soap and water. Contact a medical professional and report the incident to your employer for further action, should it be appropriate.

