Introduction to Blood Borne Pathogens

What are blood pathogens?

Any infectious microorganism in the human blood that can cause disease is a Blood borne pathogen. Three of these pathogens include hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). These and other concerns will be addressed later in this class.

Anyone can be exposed to blood borne pathogens. Certain occupations have a higher risk which include but are not limited to medical personnel, and caregivers.
What are blood pathogens?

There are several diseases that are caused by blood borne pathogens (BBP's). While many BBP's are fairly exotic and you may never encounter them, a few BBP's are fairly common and present a risk to you if you come in direct contact with potentially infectious materials such as human blood and certain body fluids.
What are blood pathogens?

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has recognized that health care workers and others, who may come in contact with human blood or blood associated materials (Other Potentially Infectious Materials or OPIM for short) has recognized this occupational hazard and created the "Blood Borne Pathogen Standard".

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Blood and Other Potentially Infectious Materials (OPIMs)

**OPIM means Other Potentially Infections Material.** HIV and HBV may be found not only in human blood, but also in other potentially infectious materials including the following body fluids:

- blood products (such as plasma or serum)
- semen
- vaginal secretions
- cerebrospinal fluid
- pleural fluid (or lung fluid)
- saliva in dental settings
- synovial fluid (or fluid from your joints)
- peritoneal fluid (or fluid that fills your body cavity)
- any body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood
- any body fluid that you can't tell what it is
- amniotic fluid (or uterine fluid)
Standard Precautions apply to blood, other body fluids containing blood, semen, and vaginal secretions. Standard Precautions do not apply to feces, nasal secretions, sputum, sweat, tears, urine, saliva and vomit unless these contain visible blood or are likely to contain blood.
Standard (Universal) Precautions

Standard precautions include protective barriers such as gloves, gowns, aprons, masks, or protective eyewear, which can reduce the risk of exposure of skin or mucus membranes that could come in contact with materials that may contain blood-borne pathogens while the child care provider is providing first aid or general care.
Transmission Based Precautions are required, in addition to Standard Precautions, where airborne, droplet and contact transmission of infectious organisms may occur. Common transmission based precautions include hand washing, cleaning and sanitation of surfaces.
4 Ways to Spread Germs (Transmission of Germs)

1. Airborne or respiratory route
2. Direct contact route
3. Fecal-oral route
4. Blood contact route
AIRBORNE OR RESPIRATORY GERMS are spread via droplets through:

- Nose
- Mouth
- Sinus
- Throat
- Lungs
- Contaminated tissues or fabric

EXAMPLES: TB, Colds, Chicken Pox
DIRECT CONTACT GERMS are spread through directly touching an infected area or body fluid such as:

- Saliva
- Mucus
- Eye Discharge
- Pus or Weeping

EXAMPLES: Conjunctivitis (pink eye), impetigo, lice, chicken pox
Fecal-Oral Route Germs

FECAL-ORAL ROUTE GERMS are transferred from stool to host via:

- Hands
- Food
- Mouthed Toys
- Toilet
- Diapers
- Etc.

EXAMPLES: Hand, foot and mouth disease, Hepatitis A, Rotavirus

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Universal Precautions and Infectious Disease

Blood Contact Transmission

**BLOOD CONTACT** transmission can occur when individual comes in contact with infected blood or infected body fluids

- A needle-stick injury or a cut with a piece of contaminated glass
- Sexual contact
- Infected women may expose their newborn children to BBP's through amniotic fluid, through blood during the birthing process, and (less likely) through breast milk.
- Mucous membrane exposure - this means that the infected blood enters your body through contact with a mucous membrane found in your eye, nose or mouth.

**EXAMPLES:**  Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS
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