

# Bloodborne Pathogens

## Protect Yourself and Others from Exposure

Remember: **EVERYONE** in the practice has a responsibility for preventing and controlling infection for themselves AND patients.

### What are Bloodborne Pathogens?

- Infectious microorganisms in blood
- Exposure can cause disease in humans
  - **Include:** hepatitis B, C, & HIV
- **Needle sticks** and other sharps-related injuries may expose workers

### Control Your Exposure Risk



- Know and review your Exposure Plan
- Provide training to workers annually
- Implement the Universal Precautions
- Use appropriate practices for handling and disposing of contaminated sharps, specimens, laundry, and cleaning
- Use signs to communicate hazards
- Maintain worker medical and training records

### Exposure Prevention

- Receive Hepatitis B Vaccination
- Practice proper handwashing
- Use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Follow Needle Stick Prevention Safety

### KNOW YOUR PPE



**UNIVERSAL  
PRECAUTIONS**

1. Use Barrier Protection to prevent skin and mucous membrane contact with blood or other body fluids.
2. Wear gloves to prevent contact with blood, infectious materials, or other potentially contaminated surfaces or items.
3. Wear face protection if blood or bodily fluid droplets may be generated during a procedure.
4. Wear protective clothing if blood or bodily fluid may be splashed during a procedure.
5. Wash hands and skin immediately and thoroughly if contaminated with blood or bodily fluids.
6. Wash hands immediately after gloves are removed.
7. Use care when using or handling sharp instruments and needles. Place used sharps in labeled, puncture resistance containers.
8. If you have sustained an exposure or puncture wound, immediately flush the exposed area and notify your supervisor.

### Needle Stick Prevention Safety Measures

**\*Most Frequent Exposure for Healthcare Workers\***

- Always use appropriate safety devices
- Educate patients to avoid movement during procedures
- Ask for assistance with uncooperative patients
- **Never recap needles**
- Dispose of needles in sharps disposal containers
- **Avoid overfilling sharps containers**