

What are they and why are they a concern?

Bloodborne pathogens (BBPs) are infectious microorganisms found in blood that can cause disease in humans. The most common and dangerous pathogens include hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). These pathogens can be transmitted through mucous membranes, broken skin and through contact with contaminated sharps.

How to protect yourself

- If blood is present, use Universal Precautions and always assume it is infectious.
- Follow the procedure below to clean up blood or bodily fluids.
- Know where the blood spill clean-up kit is located.
- Get vaccinated against HBV.

How to clean up blood

1. **Put on personal protective equipment.** Wear gloves, goggles, and long sleeves.
2. **Decontaminate the spill.** Cover the area with paper towels and slowly pour disinfectant onto the towels, fully soaking them. Let the paper towels sit on the spill for the required disinfection time (see instructions on disinfectant bottle for appropriate time).
3. **Remove any broken glass or sharp objects.** Using tongs remove any sharp objects and place in a sharps container.
4. **Clean up the spill.** Remove and discard the paper towels and any other materials into a trash bag and throw out in a normal trash can.
5. **Wash your hands.** Remove PPE and wash your hands.



What to do if you are exposed?

1. Immediately wash the exposed area with soap and water.
2. Report the incident to your supervisor.
3. Seek medical attention for possible post-exposure prophylaxis ASAP at a Designated Medical Provider (DMP) (see below for information on DMPs).
4. Fill out an injury report (see below for link to injury report).

Resources

Visit this page to fill out an injury report:



<https://www.cu.edu/risk/file-claim>

Visit this page to view DMPs:



<https://www.cu.edu/risk/dmp>

Visit this page for more information on BBPs:



<https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/bbfact01.pdf>