

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS: QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

This easy-to-use Leader's Guide is provided to assist in conducting a successful presentation. Featured are:

INTRODUCTION: A brief description of the program and the subject that it addresses.

PROGRAM OUTLINE: Summarizes the program content. If the program outline is discussed before the video is presented, the entire program will be more meaningful and successful.

PREPARING FOR AND CONDUCTING THE PRESENTATION: These sections will help you set up the training environment, help you relate the program to site-specific incidents, and provide program objectives for focusing your presentation.

REVIEW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: Questions may be copied and given to participants to document how well they understood the information that was presented. Answers to the review questions are provided separately.

ATTENDANCE RECORD: Document the date of your presentation as well as identify the program participants. The attendance record may be copied as needed.

INTRODUCTION

Whether you work in transportation, manufacturing, retail, government, emergency services or any other occupation, one day you will have to deal with a situation that involves potentially infected blood. The decisions you make and the actions you take could literally make the difference between life and death.

This program provides viewers with an understanding of bloodborne pathogens and how they can enter the human body. Other topics include preventing exposures, universal precautions, responding to co-worker injuries and cleaning up potentially infected materials.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

BACKGROUND

- In 1992, OSHA issued Standard 1910.1030 that requires certain employers to have a Bloodborne Pathogens Program.
- This covers organizations that have employees who are required to perform first aid as part of their jobs as well as employees that may be exposed to potentially infected materials.
- Along with the Bloodborne Pathogens Program, the OSHA standard mandates training for affected employees. The purpose of this training is to protect employees from exposure to bloodborne pathogens.

WHAT ARE BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS?

- Bloodborne pathogens are microorganisms that can cause diseases, some fatal, such as Hepatitis B and C as well as HIV.
- These microorganisms can be carried in infected blood and bodily fluids.
- A vaccination is available against the Hepatitis B virus, but there is currently no vaccine or cure for Hepatitis C or HIV.

PREVENTING EXPOSURES

- The best way to avoid dealing with potentially infected blood is to follow safe work practices and to have safety engineered into our workplaces.
- Hazards should be identified and removed before they can cause injury.

- Make sure warning signs and labels are up to date and clearly visible.
- Good housekeeping practices will also help reduce the risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens. Keep your workplace neat and clean to help prevent accidents.
- If you have a job that requires personal protective equipment, wear it. PPE only works when you use it according to the manufacturer's instructions.

HOW INFECTIONS OCCUR

- Bloodborne pathogens must find a direct route of entry into the body for infection to be possible.
- The infected blood or bodily fluid must enter the body through breaks in the skin, such as cuts, burns or other breaks caused by dermatitis, acne or skin rash.
- Bodily fluids can also splash into the eyes and cause infection.
- You cannot catch a bloodborne disease when an infected person touches you or sneezes and coughs on you. Also, you will not contract a bloodborne disease from a toilet seat or by using someone's cup or glass.
- You should not share razor blades or toothbrushes, which may contain blood or bodily fluids.
- You may be exposed to bloodborne pathogens if your skin is penetrated by a needle, broken glass or other sharp object that has been contaminated by infected material.

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS & OTHER PRECAUTIONS

- Universal precautions should be practiced at work as well as off the job when exposure to someone's bodily fluids can occur. These precautions require you to treat blood, vomit, saliva and other bodily fluids as if they were infected.
- Wear protective gloves when disposing of feminine hygiene products.
- Never pick up a needle or broken glass with your hands, even if you don't see blood on them. Use a broom and dust pan or tongs.
- Place all sharp objects in a puncture-resistant, leak-proof container. Don't carry the material to the container; take the container to the needles or broken glass.
- You should always have some type of barrier between you and the fluid. Disposable latex gloves and plastic face shields are good examples.
- If you can, carry a pair of disposable gloves at all times or have them close at hand. Put them on in any situation where your hands may be exposed to blood or bodily fluids.
- Be sure to check disposable gloves for holes or tears before putting them on your hands.
- As a preventive measure, have infection control kits available that include gloves, eye protection and a pocket respirator or other barrier device for CPR. You can add these items to your regular first aid kit.

RESPONDING TO INJURIES

- If a co-worker has a minor accident that causes bleeding, try to have the victim bandage his or her own wound. This will reduce the possibility of others being exposed.

- If the injury is serious, call the emergency response team. Members of this team should always wear appropriate PPE such as gloves and other barrier devices when treating anyone.
- If you feel that you don't have time to wait for the emergency response team and the injury could be fatal, make sure you take universal precautions. Wear latex gloves, use a barrier device for CPR and wear goggles or a face shield if there is a possibility of bodily fluids splashing into your eyes.
- Use anything practical to stop the bleeding while preventing exposure to the victim's blood. You may want to use a large quantity of paper towels or several layers of clothing.
- Remember that vomit, burns, abrasions, head injuries and internal injuries can release bodily fluids that are difficult to see.
- When removing disposable gloves, roll the first glove off the hand inside out. Use the clean inside part of the first glove to remove the second glove.
- Never wash or attempt to disinfect disposable gloves. They must be placed in an approved biohazard bag. Wash your hands immediately after removing any gloves.
- If you have been exposed to a victim's bodily fluids, wash the affected area thoroughly with soap and water. If you think you may have been splashed in the eyes, bathe the eyes thoroughly using an eyewash.

CLEANING UP POTENTIALLY INFECTED MATERIALS

- Wear rubber utility gloves when cleaning spills of blood or bodily fluids. Replace any gloves that are cracked, torn or damaged in any way that may prevent them from acting as an effective barrier.
- You must thoroughly wash the area that has been contaminated as well as any tools or other items that may have been contaminated.
- Use alcohol or a solution of one part household bleach to nine parts water as your cleaning agent.
- Contaminated clothing and bandages must be disposed of in an approved biohazard bag. This material must be sent to a facility that is licensed to dispose of hazardous waste.

OTHER SAFETY TIPS

- Don't eat, drink, smoke, apply cosmetics or handle contact lenses until you have thoroughly washed your hands.
- Report every incident that involves exposure to blood or bodily fluids to your supervisor immediately. He will ensure that the appropriate people are informed.
- Your employer may ask you to be tested by your company doctor or you may request testing to determine if you have been infected.
- If you are frequently at risk of exposure because of your occupation, your employer can vaccinate you for the Hepatitis B virus.
- By always taking universal precautions and using common sense, you can prevent almost all exposures to bloodborne pathogens.

PREPARE FOR THE SAFETY MEETING OR TRAINING SESSION

Review each section of this Leader's Guide as well as the videotape. Here are a few suggestions for using the program:

Make everyone aware of the importance the company places on health and safety and how each person must be an active member of the safety team.

Introduce the videotape program. Play the videotape without interruption. Review the program content by presenting the information in the program outline.

Copy the review questions included in this Leader's Guide and ask each participant to complete them.

Copy the attendance record as needed and have each participant sign the form. Maintain the attendance record and each participant's test paper as written documentation of the training performed.

Here are some suggestions for preparing your videotape equipment and the room or area you use:

Check the room or area for quietness, adequate ventilation and temperature, lighting and unobstructed access.

Check the seating arrangement and the audiovisual equipment to ensure that all participants will be able to see and hear the videotape program.

Place or secure extension cords to prevent them from becoming a tripping hazard.

CONDUCTING THE PRESENTATION

Begin the meeting by welcoming the participants. Introduce yourself and give each person the opportunity to become acquainted if there are new people joining the training session.

Explain that the primary purpose of the program is to familiarize viewers with bloodborne pathogens and to show how to prevent potentially fatal exposures to them.

Introduce the videotape program. Play the videotape without interruption. Review the program content by presenting the information in the program outline.

Lead discussions about job tasks at your facility where employees could possibly suffer an accident that involves blood or other bodily fluids. Have participants discuss how they would respond to these situations while avoiding exposures to bloodborne pathogens. Use the review questions to check how well the program participants understood the information.

After watching the videotape program, the viewer will be able to explain the following:

- What bloodborne pathogens are and how they can enter the body;
- Universal precautions and other steps to take to avoid exposures;
- How to effectively respond to an injured co-worker while preventing exposure;
- How to clean up potentially infected materials.

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REVIEW QUESTIONS

Name _____ Date _____

The following questions are provided to check how well you understand the information presented during this program.

1. Of the three major bloodborne pathogens viruses, a vaccine is only available for _____.
 - a. Hepatitis B
 - b. Hepatitis C
 - c. HIV
 - d. none of the above

2. You can catch a bloodborne disease if an infected person sneezes or coughs on you.
 - a. true
 - b. false

3. You can catch a bloodborne disease if an infected material splashes into your eyes.
 - a. true
 - b. false

4. Which of the following should be placed in all infection control kits at your facility?
 - a. latex gloves
 - b. goggles or face shield
 - c. barrier device for CPR
 - d. all of the above

5. Universal precautions require you to treat all bodily fluids as if they were not infected by bloodborne pathogens.
 - a. true
 - b. false

6. When cleaning up broken glass or needles, you should _____.
 - a. carry the sharp objects to an approved container and dispose
 - b. carry an approved container to the sharp objects and dispose
 - c. use any container to dispose of the objects
 - d. none of the above

7. You should never attempt to wash or disinfect used disposable gloves, even if you think no exposure occurred.
 - a. true
 - b. false

ANSWERS TO THE REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. a

2. b

3. a

4. d

5. b

6. b

7. a