



# InfoSheet Blood-borne Pathogens

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## Definition

Blood-borne pathogens (BBP) are microorganisms present in blood and body fluids that cause disease. Diseases include Hepatitis B and C, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Ebola.

## Exposure

Transmission is from contact with potentially infectious materials, e.g., blood and/or, body fluids (including vomit, saliva, urine, fecal matter, breast milk, semen, vaginal secretions) or contact with anything exposed to blood or fluids such as needles and soiled laundry.

Potential exposure to Ebola in the United States is very low. Workers are more likely to be exposed to Hepatitis B and HIV.

Occupations most at risk include:

- First responders
- Health-care workers
- Laundry workers
- Housekeeping staff
- Plumbers

## Training requirements

OSHA requires that all employees who could be “reasonably anticipated” to come in contact with blood and potentially infectious materials as a result of performing their job duties must receive annual

blood-borne pathogens training. Additional requirements for the employer can include establishing work practices, providing personal protective equipment and offering vaccinations.

## How to protect workers

All employees should be trained to use universal precautions when dealing with potentially infectious materials. Universal precautions means treating all blood and body fluids as infectious and dealing with them using only the proper training, procedures and personal protective equipment.

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To assist with this, Summit has several safety resources available to you, including safety talks, training videos and other resources. To access these tools, visit [www.summitholdings.com](http://www.summitholdings.com) or contact your loss prevention consultant or Summit office.



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