

“Bloodborne Pathogens”

(Provided by Safety Consultation and Training Section-Nevada Division of Industrial Relations)



The purpose of the Bloodborne Pathogen Program is to limit occupational exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials (OPIM). It covers all employees who could be reasonably anticipated, as a result of their job duties, to have contact with blood and OPIM.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has not attempted to list all the possible occupations where exposure can occur. However, it is considered to be one of OSHA's broadest standards.

Employers having employees with an occupational exposure must establish a written plan to eliminate or minimize the exposure. The plan must be reviewed and updated annually with input from all employee groups. Also, the plan must be reviewed whenever there are changes in employee exposure.

The exposure control plan must be accessible to all employees and consist of four major elements: Exposure Determination, Prevention of Infection, Investigation and Follow-up, and Training.

Exposure Determination

- List of job classifications and tasks in which all employees have occupational exposure.
- List of job classifications and tasks in which some employees have occupational exposure.

Prevention of Infection

- Employees are to treat all blood and body fluids as potentially infectious materials and take appropriate precautions.
- Explain the engineering and work practice controls to minimize exposure and which exposures will require personal protective equipment (PPE).
- List appropriate PPE, indicate where it is located, provide PPE at no cost to the employee, and require employees to use it.
- Determine appropriate schedule of cleaning and methods of decontamination after contact with blood or OPIM.
- Discuss use and disposal of contaminated waste containers, procedures for contaminated laundry, and PPE.
- Hepatitis B (HBV) vaccinations must be made available