

# Bloodborne Pathogens

## Issue One: Bloodborne Pathogens and the Workplace

Bloodborne pathogens are microorganisms that can cause disease when transmitted from one infected person to another. They are capable of causing serious illness and even death. To protect yourself in the workplace, assume all blood and bodily fluids are infectious.

### Most common bloodborne pathogens

- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- HIV, which causes AIDS

### Workplace transmission

Though possibility of transmission is minimal, incidents could occur when:

- a passenger becomes nauseated
- a rider skins his knee
- a rider has an uncontrolled incident before making it to a bathroom

### Preventing Exposure

- Never take unnecessary risks
- Keep skin healthy
- Cover any cuts, cracks or abrasions
- Always use personal protective equipment if there is a chance of exposure
- Never eat, drink or smoke where a threat exists

\*\*Information taken directly from Ride Connection's (Portland, OR) brochure 'Preparation, Safety & Training: Your Keys to a Safe Trip'

# Bloodborne Pathogens

## Issue Two: Cleanup Procedures

Follow the following procedures when cleaning up potentially infectious materials:

- Put on gloves and other personal protective equipment.
- Apply absorbent solidifier.
- Use the scoop and scraper.
- Clean area with decontaminant.
- Provide rider with antiseptic towel, if cleanup is needed.
- Remove protective equipment carefully when it becomes contaminated.
- Place all discarded material in biohazard bag.
- Wash hands with soap and running water. If running water is not available, briskly scrub with antiseptic towel and wash with running water once you return to the office.
- Bring filled bags to the designated location at your operations and maintenance facility.
- Complete an incident report.



\*\*Information taken directly from Ride Connection's (Portland, OR) brochure, 'Preparation, Safety and Training: Your Keys to a Safe Trip'

# Bloodborne Pathogens

## Quiz One: Bloodborne Pathogens and the Workplace

Please answer the following questions:

1. Hepatitis D is one of the most common bloodborne pathogens.

True or False (circle one)

2. Because the possibility of transmission is minimal, you should not assume all blood and bodily fluids are infectious.

True or False (circle one)

3. Covering any cuts or cracks in your skin will prevent exposure to a bloodborne pathogen.

True or False (circle one)

Trainee Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Bloodborne Pathogens

## Quiz Two: Cleanup Procedures

Please answer the following questions:

1. You should clean the infected area with decontaminant before you put on gloves.

True or False (circle one)

2. You should dispose of full biohazard bags in the following manner (choose one):

- a) Throw them away in the first trash can you see
- b) Bring them to the designated location at your operations and maintenance facility
- c) Ask the rider involved in the event to dispose of the bag

3. If you clean your hands with an antiseptic towel at the scene of the incident, you should wash them again with running water once you return to the office.

True or False (circle one)

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Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Bloodborne Pathogens

## Issue Three: Removing Soiled Gloves

The American Red Cross recommends the following steps for removing soiled gloves (keep in mind that to prevent the spread of germs, your bare skin should never touch the outside of either glove):

- 1 Pinch Glove- pinch the palm side of one glove near your wrist. Carefully pull the glove off so that it is inside out.
- 2 Slip Two Fingers Under the Glove- hold the glove in the palm of your gloved hand. Slip two fingers under the glove at the wrist of the remaining gloved hand.
- 3 Pull Glove Off- pull the glove until it comes off, inside out. The first glove should end up inside the glove you just removed.
- 4 Dispose of Gloves and Wash Hands- after removing the gloves, dispose of them and other personal protective equipment (PPE) in a proper biohazard container. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and running water, if available. Otherwise, rub hands thoroughly with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if hands are not visibly soiled.

\*\*Information taken directly from American Red Cross Fact Sheet, 'Preventing the Spread of Bloodborne Pathogens'

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# Bloodborne Pathogens

## Issue Four: Reporting Procedures

There are two different types of reports you could be required to fill out after an event, depending on what has occurred.

### Incidents

An incident is defined as a cleanup that involves a bodily fluid. An incident report must be submitted to your transportation manager if this type of event occurs.

### Exposures

An exposure is defined as contact with blood or other potentially infectious material through broken skin, eyes, nose or mouth. An exposure incident report and follow-up should be completed with your transportation manager if this type of event occurs.

Remember, if you find yourself in any type of incident, assume all blood and bodily fluids are infectious and follow the proper cleanup and reporting procedures.

\*\*Information taken directly from Ride Connection's (Portland, OR) brochure 'Preparation, Safety and Training: Your Keys to a Safe Trip'

# Bloodborne Pathogens

## Quiz Three: Removing Soiled Gloves

Please answer the following questions:

1. Which of the following is NOT true (choose one)?
  - a) You should wash your hands after removing and disposing of soiled gloves
  - b) You do not have to worry about how you remove soiled gloves as they have already protected you from contamination
2. As long as the soiled gloves are inside-out after removal, they do not have to be disposed of in a biohazard bag.  
  
True or False (circle one)
3. In order to prevent the spread of germs, your bare skin should never touch the outside of your gloves.  
  
True or False (circle one)

Trainee Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Bloodborne Pathogens

## Quiz Four: Reporting Procedures

Please answer the following questions:

1. According to the training, which of the following is NOT a type of report you would fill out after an event?
  - a) Incident report
  - b) Exposure incident report
  - c) Hazardous incident report
2. An incident report is required for an event cleanup that involves a bodily fluid.  
  
True or False (circle one)
3. An example of an exposure is if you have contact with a potentially infected material through broken skin.  
  
True or False (circle one)

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# Bloodborne Pathogens

## Issue Five: General Tips

The following tips will help you be prepared for handling potentially infectious materials and will help you to make the best decisions to keep yourself safe.

- 1 Sharp items (i.e. broken glass) can easily cut gloves. Use a scoop or scraper for clean up and place in a puncture-proof container.
- 2 If you are allergic to latex, talk to your transportation manager about rubber gloves.
- 3 Biohazard bags cannot be thrown away in the garbage. Return bags to your transportation manager for proper disposal.
- 4 Hepatitis can be transmitted through dried blood.

Remember, preparation, safety and training are your keys to a safe trip!

\*\*Information taken directly from Ride Connections' (Portland, OR) brochure 'Preparation, Safety and Training: Your Keys to a Safe Trip'

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# Bloodborne Pathogens

## Quiz Five: General Tips

Please answer the following questions:

1. You are free to throw biohazard bags away in any garbage can.

True or False (circle one)

2. Hepatitis can be transmitted through dried blood.

True or False (circle one)

3. Sharp items should be disposed of in a puncture-proof container.

True or False (circle one)

Trainee Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

