



Compliance Training Tip: Bloodborne Pathogens—Are You Protected?

Bloodborne pathogens—germs present in human blood and other bodily fluids—can spread serious diseases including hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV. No employer wants to see staff fall victim to these illnesses—when people miss work due to symptoms or to receive treatment, the business loses productivity. The CDC estimates that 5.6 million workers in the healthcare industry and related occupations are at risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens in the course of their work.¹

Although healthcare workers are the most likely to be exposed, employees in other industries are also at risk including custodians, public safety workers and law enforcement officers. Even in an office, retail or restaurant environment, any workplace accidents that expose other employees to blood or bodily fluids can be dangerous.

DID YOU KNOW?

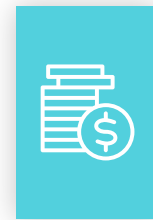
Developing procedures to protect employees from exposure to bloodborne pathogens can lessen the chances that workers will become infected during the course of performing their job duties. By implementing engineering and work practice controls, developing a plan for handling accidental exposure and providing ongoing training for employees, you can keep your workplace safe.

OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens standard specifies regulations employers must follow if employees are likely to be exposed to bloodborne pathogens at work.

STEPS TO LIMIT EXPOSURE TO BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS IN THE WORKPLACE

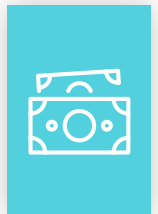
- Identify employees whose jobs may put them at risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens. Pinpoint the situations in which exposure is most likely to occur in your workplace.
- Develop methods of eliminating or reducing the likelihood of workplace exposure to bloodborne pathogens. These may include implementing safer devices, adjusting work practices or providing employees with personal protective equipment such as gloves, gowns or eye protection.
- Train employees in proper practices to prevent exposure to bloodborne pathogens. Provide refresher training annually, or whenever changes to job roles or procedures affect an employee's occupational exposure.
- Develop an Exposure Control Plan and share it with your staff. Ensure employees understand the importance of reporting exposure so you can take proper decontamination and treatment measures if an incident occurs.

TRAINING TIPS



One case of infection by bloodborne pathogens can potentially cost \$1 million for testing, follow-up and disability payments.²

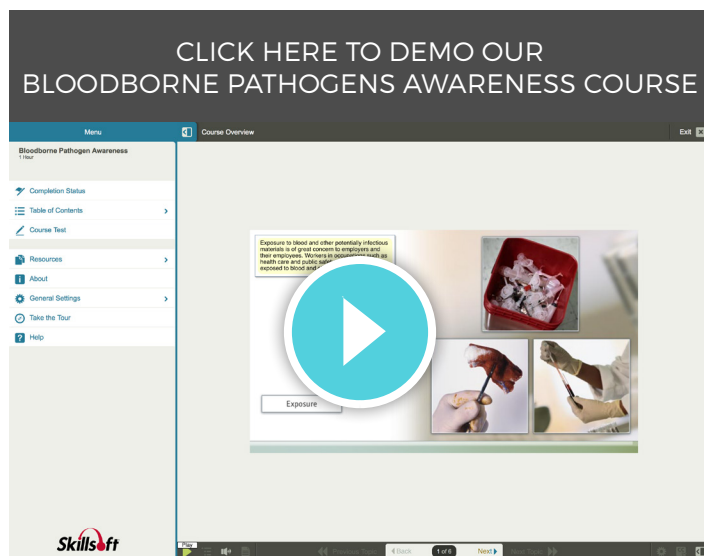
Preventing needle stick injuries among U.S. healthcare workers saves an estimated \$1 billion annually, including the costs of medical testing, laboratory work, counseling and follow-up.³



HOW DO BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS IN YOUR WORKPLACE AFFECT THE BOTTOM LINE?

- Developing a plan for protecting employees from exposure to bloodborne pathogens can reduce absenteeism due to illness.
- Educating employees about proper protocol around bloodborne pathogens can help protect your business from excessive healthcare expenses and costly workers' compensation claims.
- Exposure to bloodborne pathogens causes stress and emotional upset. Providing a safe workplace improves employee satisfaction and morale.

Skillsoft Global Compliance Solutions delivers online training in bloodborne pathogen standards to meet the needs of organizations looking to build awareness around the risks bloodborne pathogens can pose. Our customization package includes options to provide your bloodborne pathogens exposure control plan as well as your organization's qualified trainer contact information.




Sample "Bloodborne Pathogens Awareness" today, and call us to begin learning how our comprehensive solution for bloodborne pathogen awareness training can partner with your organization to build a safer, healthier work environment for your employees.

^{1,2} *Bloodborne Pathogens and Needlestick Prevention*. OSHA. <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodbornepathogens/recognition.html>

^{3,4} *Needle stick injuries: prevention and education key* by J.M. Anderson. *Journal of Controversial Medical Claims*.




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Our compliance courseware and videos have been developed in partnership with industry-leading compliance experts to ensure customers receive up-to-date, relevant and reliable content. We provide one of the largest selections of compliance content to ensure organizations effectively meet regulatory requirements, mitigate risks—all while building awareness and developing a strong culture of compliance.

We help businesses protect themselves and their employees through a comprehensive suite of training services and compliance-based learning solutions.