

OSU-CHS
UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS FOR BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS
(report variations from precautions to supervisor)

1. **Barrier precautions** shall be used to prevent contact with blood or other potentially infectious material (OPIM). **Gloves** shall be worn for touching blood and OPIM, mucus membranes, non-intact skin, and for handling items or surfaces soiled with blood or OPIM. Gloves shall be changed after contact with each exposure. **Respirators, goggles and/or face shields** shall be worn during activities that are likely to generate splashes of blood or OPIM to mucous membranes of the mouth, nose and eyes. **Gowns** or other protective outerwear shall be worn during activities that are likely to generate splashes of blood or OPIM. **Mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, and other ventilator equipment**, where available, shall be used if the need for resuscitation arises.
2. Hands and other skin surfaces shall be **washed immediately and thoroughly** with an anti-microbial soap, or flush mucous membranes with water, if contaminated with blood or OPIM. Hands shall be washed immediately when gloves are removed.
3. **Precautions and safer devices** shall be used to prevent injuries that may be caused by contaminated needles and other sharp instruments or objects. Needles shall not be recapped, purposely bent or broken by hand or removed from disposable syringes. Disposable syringes and needles, after they are used, and other contaminated sharp items shall be placed in puncture-resistant containers which should be located as close to the work area as possible.
4. The worksite shall be maintained in a **clean and sanitary condition**. Laboratory personnel or housekeeping personnel shall have a written schedule for cleaning and method of decontamination based upon location within the workplace, type of surface to be cleaned, type of soil present, and task or procedures being performed in the area.
5. **Eating, drinking, applying cosmetics or lip balm, and handling contact lenses** are prohibited in work areas with potential for bloodborne pathogen exposure. Food and drink shall not be kept in refrigerators, freezers, shelves, cabinets or on bench tops where blood or other potentially infectious materials may be present.
6. Persons with **open lesions or weeping dermatitis** may be required to refrain from all direct exposure and from handling equipment until the condition resolves. Supervisor should be consulted by such persons.
7. **Warning labels** (orange-red with legend 'biohazard') shall be affixed to containers of regulated waste, refrigerators and freezers containing blood or OPIM; and other containers used to store, transport or ship blood or OPIM. A red bag or container may be used if the contents are indicated.
8. All blood or other OPIM **spills** shall be cleaned up promptly with a diluted 1:10 bleach/water solution or other effective disinfectant. Dispose of small amounts of contaminated materials in the glove as it is removed.
9. Discard all **contaminated waste** in a properly designated container for disposal (i.e. red bag in labeled box). Use area specific infectious waste disposal practices.
10. If blood or OPIM are **splashed on garment(s)**, remove the garment(s) as soon as possible and place in an appropriately designated area or container for disposal or disinfection prior to laundering.
11. Any eye, mucus membrane or non-intact skin blood or OPIM **exposure** shall be washed immediately and **reported promptly** to the supervisor so response and necessary follow-up can be instituted as outlined under section 8.0, "Exposure Incidents", in the OSU-CHS *Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Manual*.
12. All employees, at risk of exposure, are offered **hepatitis B vaccinations** through OSU Health Care Center at no cost to themselves.