

Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure

Adult family home employees should be aware of exposure risks to **bloodborne pathogens** such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV. Hepatitis B and C cause serious liver damage. HIV disables the body's immune system so it cannot fight infection. Reference Chapter 296-823 WAC for more information on Washington State BBP rules.

What should you do if you are exposed to blood or OPIM?

Provide immediate care after exposure by taking the following steps:



- Thoroughly wash needlestick or sharp punctures and cuts with soap and water.
- Flush splashes and/or rinse thoroughly to the nose, mouth, or skin with water.
- If blood or OPIM is exposed to the eyes, remove contacts (if applicable), irrigate eyes with clean water, saline, or sterile irrigants and flush for 15 minutes using an eye wash station.
- Report the incident to your supervisor and provide information on the "source" patient.
- Immediately seek medical care to determine risk associated with the exposure.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/healthcare/risk-factors/bloodborne-infectious-diseases.html>

Employer requirements for worker blood or "Other Potentially Infectious Material" (OPIM) contact include offering a Hepatitis B vaccine, paying for medical costs if exposed, keeping confidential medical records and providing a post-exposure medical exam.

