

# Safety First

Presented by: DON Services

SEPTEMBER 2021

## SAFETY COMMITTEE:

- Neal Jones
- Justin Mastrantuoni
- Chris Little
- Tinna Miller
- Phillip Webster
- Danielle Marsh
- Patrick McGuire
- Bridget Krebs
- Walt Heaney
- Jillian Hibler
- Rhonda Pager
- Amy Jones
- April Caldwell
- Ashley Stevenson
- Kevin Hue

## Bloodborne Pathogens

Bloodborne pathogens (BBP) are microorganisms that can cause disease when transferred from an infected person to another person through blood or other potentially infected body fluids. The microorganisms are capable of causing serious illness and death. The most common diseases spread in this manner are Hepatitis B (HBV) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Examples of other bloodborne diseases include malaria, Hepatitis C and syphilis.

### Bloodborne pathogens program

In 1991, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) began requiring employers with workers potentially exposed to blood or other infectious materials to establish a bloodborne pathogens program. The purpose of a bloodborne pathogens program is to protect employees from the health hazards associated with bloodborne pathogens and to provide appropriate treatment and counseling should an employee be exposed to bloodborne pathogens.

If you have any health questions, contact your health care provider.

### If you have any safety questions or concerns:

- Contact your Coordinator immediately with any questions or concerns:

New Castle Office: **724-652-5144**

Donora Office: **724-856-4978**

Penn Hills Office: **724-856-4211**

Greensburg Office: **724-936-3900**

You can reach out to the Safety Committee directly at:  
**[donsafety@donservices.org](mailto:donsafety@donservices.org)**

Interim Chair of the Safety Committee - Justin Mastrantuoni  
Secretary—Bridget Krebs

# The Safety Committee's Health and Safety Tips

## How can you become exposed?

Exposure to bloodborne pathogens may occur in many ways. Any kind of opening or break in the skin provides a place for infected blood or fluids to enter your body. Scrapes, cuts, rashes, burns and other minor injuries that create an opening in the skin are entryways for bloodborne pathogens. Your eyes, nose and mouth are mucous membranes, and are also openings for diseases to enter.

### Universal Precautions

Universal precautions are methods of protecting yourself from bloodborne pathogens. Universal precautions assume all body fluids are infected with bloodborne pathogens. Universal precautions include:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – to be used at all times to prevent skin or mucous membrane contact with bodily fluids. Always inspect PPE for cracks, holes or other damage. Never use damaged PPE. PPE examples include lab coats, gloves, eye goggles, face shields, etc.
- Wash hands or other skin surfaces thoroughly and immediately if contaminated.
- When using sharp items (scalpels, needles, pipettes, etc.) that may be potentially contaminated, a puncture resistant container must be used for storage and disposal after use.



## Bloodborne Pathogens