

Environmental Health and Safety Manual (EHS)

EHS 101: Bloodborne Pathogens and Needlestick Prevention

Effective: 3/6/1992

Revised: 7/1/2024

Purpose

To eliminate or minimize occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens or other potentially infectious materials and to prevent needlestick and other sharps injuries

Sources

29 Code of Federal Regulations § 1910.1030

Arizona State University Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan

Applicability

Employees who may be reasonably anticipated to come in contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials during the performance of their duties.

Policy

ASU maintains a [bloodborne pathogens](#) compliance program for employees who may be reasonably anticipated to come in contact with human blood or [other potentially infectious materials](#) during the performance of their duties. The program includes the use of engineering and work practice controls, personal protective clothing and equipment, informational training, hepatitis B vaccination program, post-exposure evaluation and follow-up, sign and label programs, and other protection provisions.

Responsibilities of Environmental Health and Safety

Environmental Health and Safety is responsible for the development, implementation, and maintenance of the university's bloodborne pathogens compliance program and written exposure control plan. The program is designed to promote and achieve regulatory compliance and provide a means for employees to be better informed and protected. Sharps injury logs must also be maintained in compliance with the Arizona State University Exposure Control Plan for Bloodborne Pathogens; Needlesticks and Other Sharps Injuries.

Environmental Health and Safety provides technical assistance to departments and units in their efforts to address the requirements established in the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standard.

Responsibilities of Departments and Units

Departments and units are responsible for identifying employees who may be reasonably anticipated to come in contact with human blood, other potentially infectious materials, and bloodborne pathogens during the performance of their duties, and for ensuring that these employees are provided the protections and training required by the OSHA standard.

Training is required prior to coming into contact with all materials covered by this policy and refresher training is required every 365 days.

Departments and units are responsible for implementing the appropriate engineering controls such as sharps disposal containers, self-sheathing needles, safer medical devices (such as sharps with engineered sharps injury protections and needleless systems) that are commercially available and effective, when feasible. All departments and units are responsible for ensuring all incidents, injuries, and exposures are reported to EHS.

Exposure Control Plan

The core element of the bloodborne pathogens compliance program is the *Arizona State University Exposure Control Plan*. This plan is found on the Environmental Health and Safety website. The plan contains the following elements:

1. exposure determination process
2. evaluation schedules and establishment of methods of compliance for the following:
 - a. universal precautions, engineering and work practice controls, personal protective equipment, and housekeeping
 - b. hepatitis B vaccination and postexposure evaluation and follow-up
 - c. human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and hepatitis B virus (HBV) research laboratory evaluations
 - d. communication of hazards to employees and required trainingand
 - e. record keeping, including sharps injury log;and
3. procedures for evaluation of circumstances surrounding exposure.

The plan and required training provide the foundation for the university's bloodborne pathogens compliance program. Initial and annual update training schedules, copies of the plan, and compliance guidance documents can be obtained from Environmental Health and Safety by calling 480-965-1823 or sending email (askehs@asu.edu).

Clean-up

The clean-up of a spill of human blood, other potentially infectious materials, or bloodborne pathogens, and the affected area must be performed by properly trained personnel. These personnel may be ASU employees or contractors. All costs associated with the cleanup/decontamination will be passed on to the befitting or responsible ASU unit. A list of approved contractors can be obtained by contacting EHS.

Exception

Voluntary "good Samaritan" acts, such as assisting a coworker who has a nosebleed, cut, or other injury are not covered by this policy or by the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard.

Cross-References

For more information, see:

1. [EHS 104](#), "Laboratory Use of Hazardous Chemicals"
2. [EHS 105](#), "Personal Protective Equipment"

and

3. [EHS 108](#), “Environmental Health and Safety Training.”

For additional information on HIV and AIDS, see the *Staff Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual*— [SPP 313](#), “Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection.”