



for Bus Drivers



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Exposure to Blood-What Bus Drivers Need To Know

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Bus drivers may come into contact with blood and other body fluids when at work. To protect yourself, it is important to understand the potential danger of exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) and ways to minimize that risk.

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Bloodborne pathogens can cause infection by entering the body through open cuts, skin abrasions, dermatitis (if skin is broken), acne and mucous membranes (mouth, eyes and nose). The most common diseases carried by blood are Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS.

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To reduce the chance of infection from bloodborne diseases:

- Practice universal precautions. You should consider every person, all blood and bodily fluids to be potential carriers of infectious disease and protect yourself when in contact with blood and other bodily fluids.
- Wear gloves anytime you may come into contact with blood or OPIM. Disposable gloves should only be used once and then disposed of. Heavy-duty utility gloves should be used for housekeeping and may be properly cleaned and disinfected for future use. Check gloves periodically to ensure they are in good condition (no rips or holes).
- Consider getting vaccinated. A vaccine is available that will protect you against hepatitis B.
- Always wash your hands after using the bathroom, handling any body fluids, or removing gloves. If water and soap are not immediately available, an antiseptic hand sanitizer may be used as a temporary measure until you can get to soap and water.
- Clean and disinfect all hard, soiled, washable surfaces immediately. Commercial disinfectants or a 10% bleach-to-water solution (10 parts water to one part household bleach) may be used. Thoroughly wipe down the area (paper towels work) with soap and water and then disinfect or bleach, and then let the area air dry. Disinfect any tools that you use also.
- Never pick up broken glass with your bare hands. Always wear gloves, use tongs or a broom and dustpan.
- Use a one-way resuscitation device if performing CPR.
- Dispose of contaminated gloves and waste into a plastic bag.
- Make sure your first aid kit is fully stocked.

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If you are exposed to another person's blood or OPIM, as soon as possible:

- Flush the exposed area with water.
- Wash the area thoroughly with soap and water.
- Report the incident to your supervisor.

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