

Blood Micro-Learn Discussion Guide:

What to do when you see blood

Use the talking points below and accompanying job aid to engage your team in short, focused discussion. Adapt to meet your needs.

1. Introduce the topic

Share key information about the topic that your audience should **know and connect to your local context**:

- Always assume blood is infectious. People who are infected with bloodborne pathogens don't always have symptoms, but their blood and some body fluids still have virus in them.
- The pathogens in blood that are the most concerning infection risks in health care are HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C.
- Bloodborne pathogens can be spread when infected blood enters the body, like:
 - From a needlestick
 - Through breaks or cracks in the skin, or
 - By splashes or sprays to the eyes, nose, or mouth

2. Expand on the topic

Share information about what your audience should **do**:

- Because we always assume blood is infectious, infection control actions for blood focus on preventing infected blood from entering the body and limiting its spread in the environment and between people.
- Don't touch blood without gloves on.
- When you see blood, look for sharps.
 - If you see sharps, safely dispose of them in a sharps container.
 - If you're approaching a place where a procedure was done, be careful handling drapes, linens, or other items that might be hiding a needle or other used sharps.
- When you're using sharps, plan ahead. Pick one location to keep sharps in before you start a procedure so you can keep track of them and know where to find the sharps containers to dispose of them safely as soon as you're finished.

3. Discuss with your team

Find out how your audience feels about the topic. Sample questions include:

- What do you usually do when you see blood? Do you worry that you might catch something? When might you call for help or assistance?
- Do you have all the tools and information you need to do your job safely?
- As a team, how can we help each other take the right infection control actions when we see blood to keep germs from spreading?

4. Wrap up and reinforce

Reinforce key takeaways:

- Always assume blood is infectious.
- Don't touch blood without gloves on.

Share related facility-specific information and cue to follow-up opportunities:

- Connect content with information such as where to find sharps containers, what to do and whom to call if there is an exposure, recent cases or examples of issues, or other relevant information.
- Share reminders, prompts, and opportunities for further learning as appropriate, including the Project Firstline website at [cdc.gov/projectfirstline](https://www.cdc.gov/projectfirstline).



What Should You Do If You See Blood?

Use Gloves If You're Going to Touch Blood



After completing your task, remove gloves right away and clean your hands.

Use the Right PPE If Splashes and Sprays Are Likely



The PPE you use should protect your skin, eyes, nose, and mouth.

Always Act As If Blood Is Infectious

Clean Your Hands



Always clean hands after tasks involving blood – gloves are not a substitute for hand hygiene.

Look for Sharps



Handle needles and sharp items carefully and safely dispose of them in a sharps container.

Learn More

Germ's Can Live in Blood: <http://bit.ly/3GUqFKo>
CDC One and Only Campaign: <https://bit.ly/3QAS6w6>