



Purpose

Blood and Other Potentially Infectious Materials (OPIM) pose a hazard to all who encounter them.

Universal Precautions should be followed for all Blood or OPIM. This means that all Blood or OPIM should be treated as if they were infectious.

Other control methods such as Engineering Controls, Work Practice Controls, Housekeeping, and Personal Protective Equipment should also be used as applicable in order to reduce the risk of coming in contact with Blood or OPIM.

Applicability

- ◆ This policy applies to all University Employees who might be exposed to Blood and OPIM.
- ◆ A list of University employee job classifications which have the potential for occupational exposure to blood or OPIM can be found in the [Employee Exposure Determination Matrix](#).
- ◆ Universal Precautions and other control methods apply to any and all blood and OPIM.

General Requirements

Engineering Controls	Used to eliminate or minimize employee exposure by isolating or removing bloodborne pathogens from the workplace. Examples include: biological safety cabinets, handwashing facilities, and sharps disposable containers.
Work Practice Controls	Work practice controls involve altering the manner in which the job is being performed. Correct work procedures include, but are not limited to: proper handling of any items that come into contact with blood or OPIM, prohibiting the passing of uncapped needles, wearing gloves whenever handling blood or OPIM, and prohibiting eating and drinking in areas where there is a reasonable likelihood of occupational exposure.
Housekeeping	<p>The worksite shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition. A written schedule for cleaning and a method of decontamination, based on the location, type of surface, type of soil present, and procedures being performed in each area shall be present.</p> <p>All equipment and working surfaces will be cleaned and decontaminated after contact with blood or OPIM.</p>
Personal Protective Equipment	<p>Personal protective equipment shall be used in all occupational exposure situations where there is the potential for the employee to come in contact with potentially infectious materials.</p> <p>Personal protective equipment shall be considered "appropriate" only if it does not permit blood or OPIM to pass through. Examples include: gloves, goggles, laboratory coats/gowns, and surgical caps.</p>

Additional Information

Exposure Reporting	Training
<p>All exposure incidents with blood or other OPIM shall be reported in accordance with the Accident/Incident Reporting and Investigation Program.</p> <p>Immediately following an exposure incident, a confidential medical evaluation and follow-up shall be provided at no cost to the employee.</p>	<p>All employees with the potential for occupational exposure to blood or OPIM shall be trained during working hours prior to initial assignment to a task involving the potential for occupational exposure and annually thereafter.</p> <p>Online training can be accessed here.</p>

Remember to always treat blood and OPIM as if they were infectious. When in doubt err on the side of caution.