

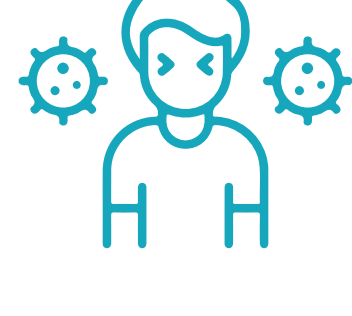
SHARPS SAFETY 101: NEEDLESTICK INJURY PREVENTION IN HEALTHCARE

One small needlestick injury can lead to big consequences. As a healthcare professional, it's important to practice sharps safety.



To help you remember the most important needlestick injury prevention tips, keep reading this infographic created by the experts at SureFire CPR.

STATISTICS



There are 20 bloodborne pathogens that can cause disease in humans.



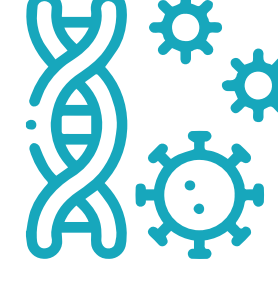
1991: The OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard was introduced.



400,000 sharps injuries occur per year in U.S. hospitals.



Between 62 and 88% of sharps injuries can be prevented with sharps injury prevention devices.



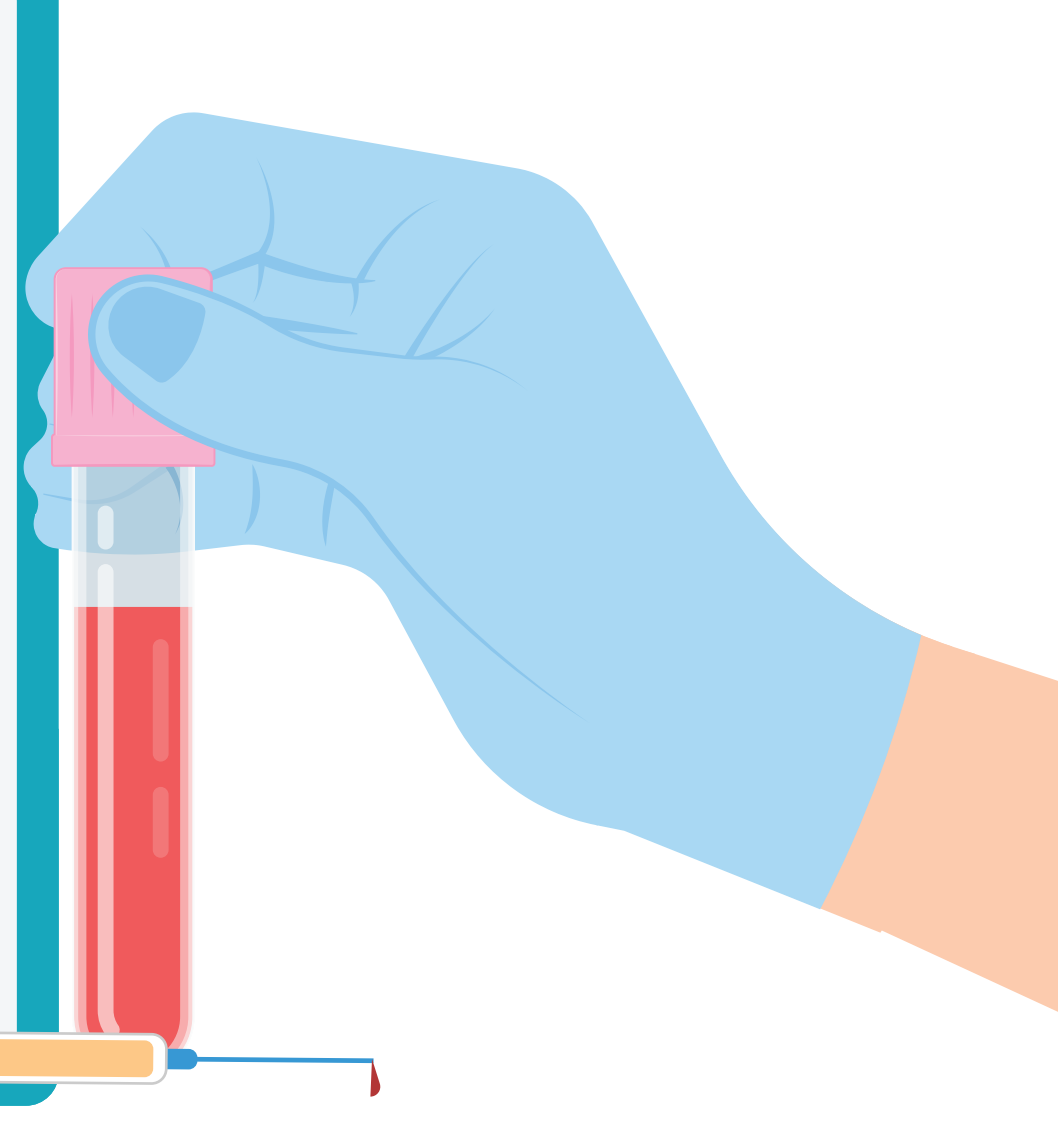
The most common bloodborne pathogens in the U.S. are Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

CAUSES OF NEEDLESTICK INJURIES

Needlestick injuries can occur during prep, use, and disposal. Healthcare workers are at risk for needlestick injury due to



- Improper handling
- Failure to use safety-engineered sharps
- Recapping needles
- Transferring a bodily fluid between containers
- Attempting to bend or break needles
- Unsafe disposal
- Poorly managed sharps containers



SAFE HANDLING TECHNIQUES

Accidents happen, but you can help prevent them by following sharps safety protocol. Remember the following techniques:

- Handle sharps carefully
- Wear personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Use sharps containers
- Dispose of sharps promptly
- Don't bend or break contaminated sharps
- Don't recap contaminated sharps
- Avoid picking up sharps by hand
- Handle sharps containers carefully
- Participate in bloodborne pathogens training
- Avoid overfilling sharps containers

The CDC recommends avoiding needle use if a safe, effective alternative is available.



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

It's always a good idea to wear PPE when handling sharps.

PPE can protect you against needlestick injuries, bodily fluids, and any potential hazards.

Recommended PPE for sharps handling includes:

- Gloves
- Gown
- Face mask
- Protective eyewear



EDUCATION & TRAINING

All medical professionals should complete Bloodborne Pathogen training to learn more about safe sharps handling. It's a great way to stay informed and up-to-date on best practices.

SureFire CPR's Bloodborne Pathogens training course is convenient and highly effective. Sign up today on our website.

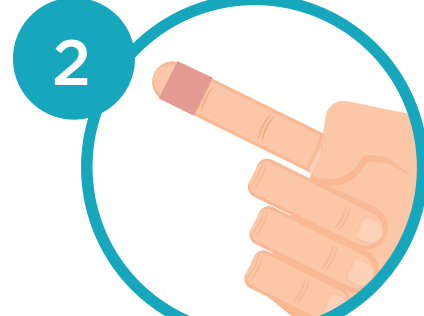


POST-EXPOSURE PROCEDURES

If you experience a needlestick injury, do the following right away:



1 Wash the wound with soap and water.



2 Seek medical care.



3 Report the injury to your supervisor or an occupational health department.



4 Complete an incident report.

Reporting a needlestick injury will help prevent future incidents at your workplace.

Additional Resources

For more information, visit our Bloodborne Pathogens hub at <https://surefirecpr.com/bloodborne-pathogens/>

Sources

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34033323/>
<https://www.osha.gov/bloodborne-pathogens/evaluating-controlling-exposure>
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