OSHA

INSERVICE

Tuberculosis
and
Bloodborne Pathogens
Tuberculosis

Airborne contagious disease caused by bacteria called “Mycobacterium tuberculosis”

How it is spread:

- TB bacteria expelled into the air through coughing
- Close contacts can inhale the TB germ and become infected
TB Infection

- No symptoms of TB present
- NOT contagious
- Negative chest X-ray
- Skin test (PPD) positive

(Means TB exposure occurred)

Inactive TB germs can't hurt you
TB Disease

- Symptoms present: fever, night sweats, chronic cough, weight loss, fatigue, bloody sputum, loss of appetite
- Is contagious
- Chest X-ray - positive
- Sputum specimens positive for TB
- May have + PPD also

{Chest x-ray with cavity-like lesion in right upper lobe of lung}
TB Prevention includes:

1. Annual employee PPD skin test is used to detect TB infection

- TB skin test must be read within 48-72 hrs. by Employee Health or nurse certified in reading PPD’s.
- If TB skin test is not read within 48-72 hrs, the employee will need to have the test repeated.
2. Evaluation and follow up for persons with positive PPD

3. Resident PPD testing on admission

4. Knowing and reporting TB disease symptoms promptly

5. Follow up testing of persons exposed to an individual with TB disease
Handwashing
“Cornerstone of Infection Control”

How to wash:
1. Wet hands
2. Apply soap
3. Lather & friction - 15 seconds
4. Rinse, pointing fingers down
5. Dry with paper towel
6. New paper towel to turn off faucet

NOTE: New research has indicated that alcohol hand sanitizers kill more germs & irritate less than soap & water.
The Blood Diseases:

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis C

HIV
The Blood Diseases: Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV

**Hepatitis B**
- Acquired through blood, bites, body fluids (sexual contact)
- Symptoms may be absent
- 90% of infected people get better
- 10% may become permanent carriers
- FA employees who are at risk for exposures to blood are offered Hepatitis B vaccine.

**Hepatitis C**
- Acquired through blood, (sex, bites)
- Less than 20% get better
- Symptoms may be absent
- Most become carriers forever
HIV/AIDS - Human Immunodeficiency Virus

- Acquired through blood, body fluids (sexual contact), mother to child in pregnancy/breast feeding
- Symptoms take years to show up
- All infected people carry the virus forever and can transmit it
- HIV blood test can detect infection within 6-12 weeks of getting the virus
PA Law on HIV Confidentiality

- Prevents unauthorized release of HIV related information
- Requires written consent for HIV testing
- Requires pre & post counseling for HIV testing
How to Avoid Getting Blood Diseases in the Workplace

1. Treat **ALL** blood & body substances as infectious “Universal (standard) Precautions”.
   - We never need to know a resident’s diagnosis to protect ourselves against the HIV or Hepatitis viruses.

2. Careful handling of needles or razors

3. Protective attire as needed:
   - Gloves - body fluid contact
   - Gowns - to prevent splashes
   - Face/eye protection - if splashing is possible
4. Proper handling of bloody disposables

5. Handwashing

6. Hepatitis B Vaccine

7. Red Sharps Containers
   - Dispose of all needles & razors immediately into sharps containers.
   - Never fill sharps containers past the "FILL LINE".
Remember:

Red Trash Bags For:

- Bloody disposable items
- Soiled dressings

Red trash bags **NEVER** get put into regular trash bins or compactor
What if you get an exposure to blood or body fluids?

1. Wash the area with soap/water
2. If splash to eye, flush with water
3. Report exposure immediately
   - To Supervisor
   - To Medical Management (Employee Health) Department
4. Fill out Employee Incident Report

**Important**
REPORT ALL EXPOSURES !!
Healthcare Worker Risk

- Blood
- Bloody body fluids

- Exposures: Needlesticks from used needles, razors or scalpels, splashes to mucous membranes or non-intact skin, etc.